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2008 Preview

INSIDE

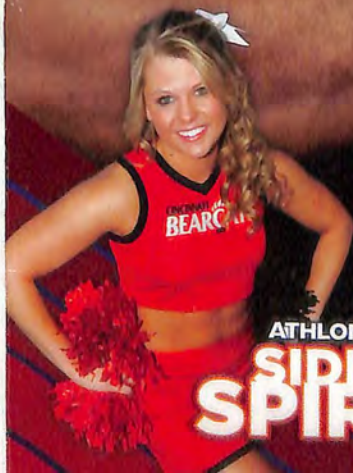
Conference Supremacy
Which League is the Best?

Defending the Spread

Recruiting Revisited
Class of '03

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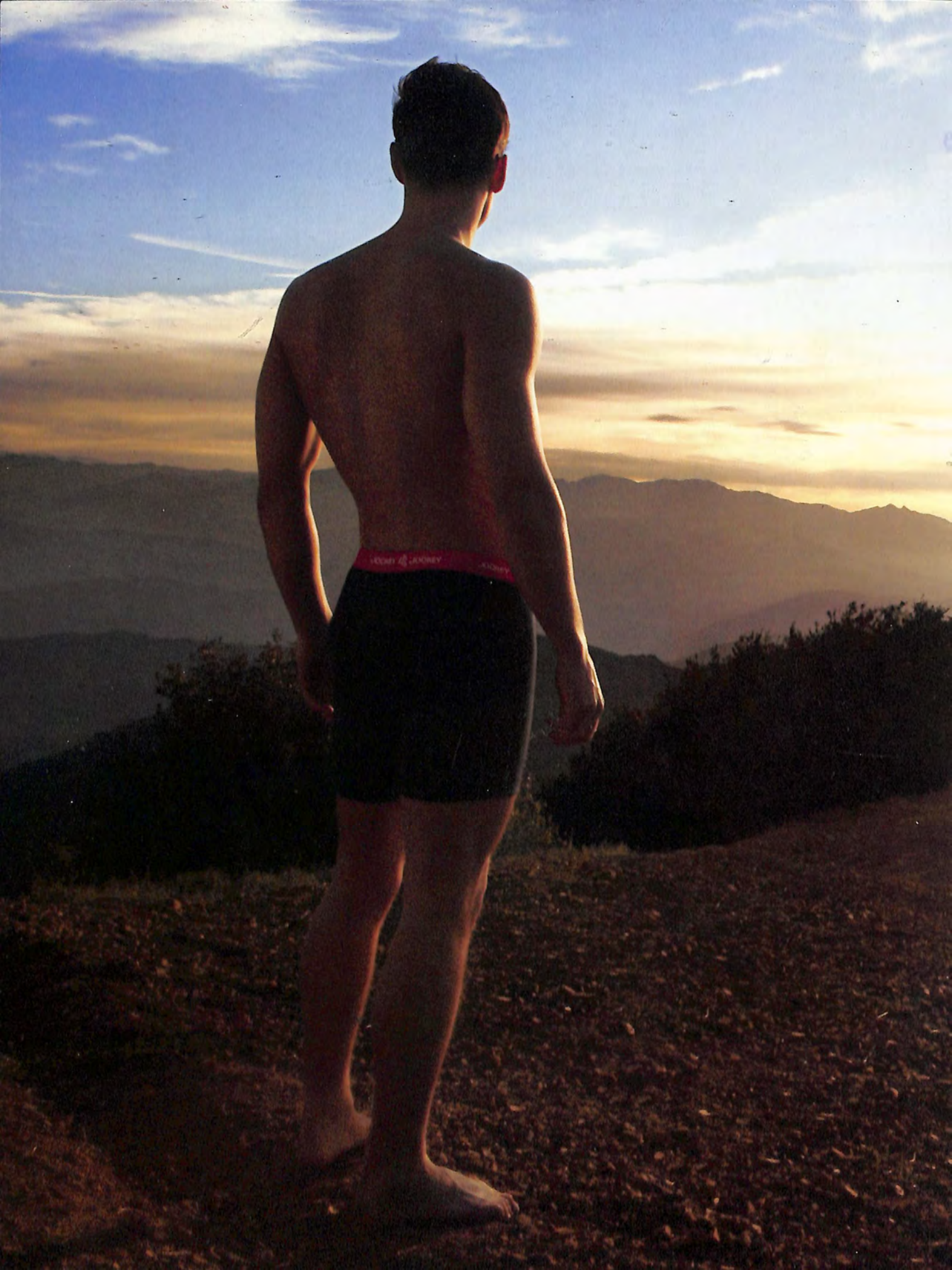
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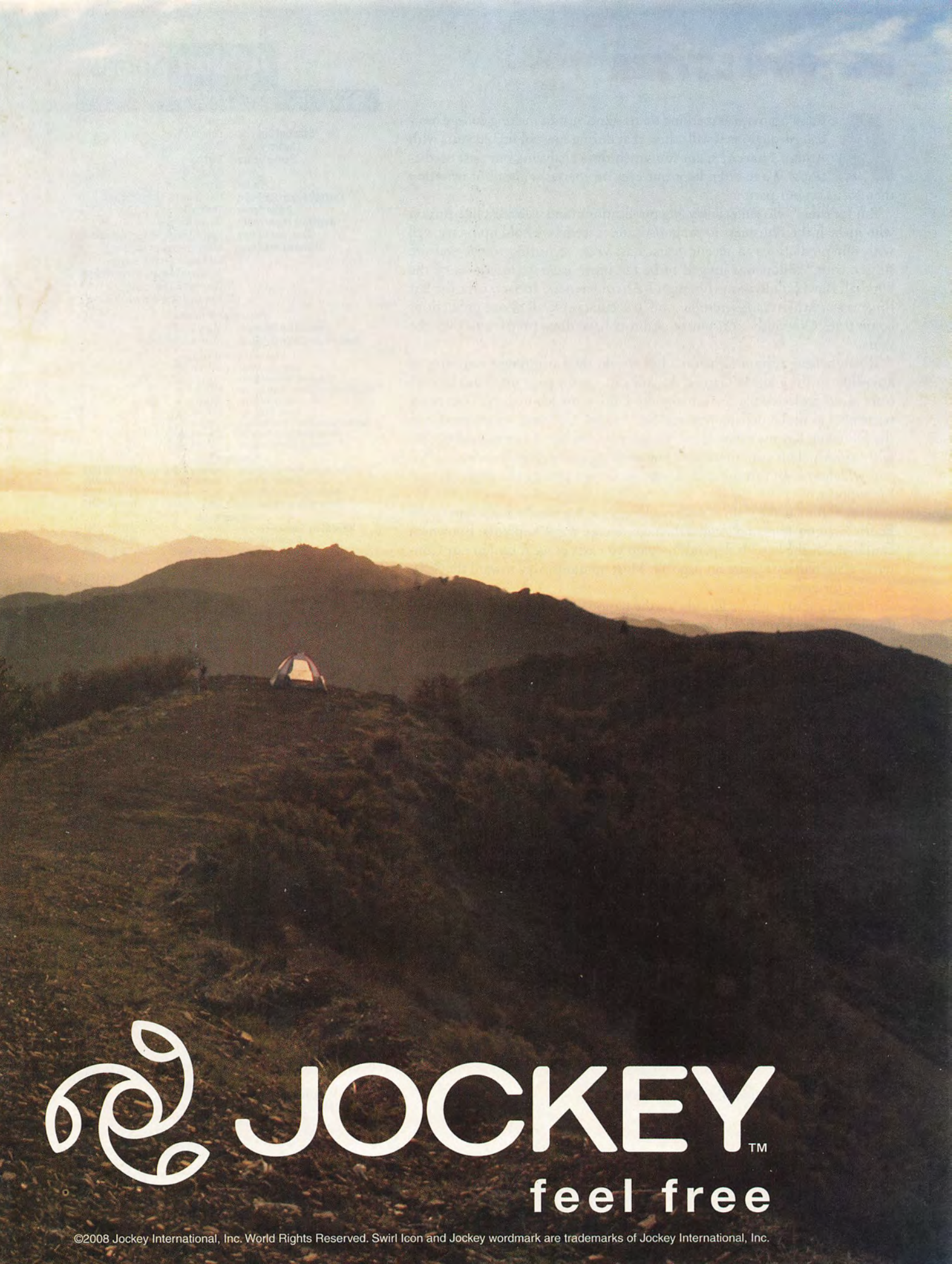
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VOL 42/2008

11





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EDITOR'S LETTER

Athlon Sports is embarking on its 42nd year of making college football predictions. I will admit that during most of my 20 years with Athlon I haven't spent too much time analyzing our past predictions. We've often kept our eyes on the tasks ahead of us rather than focus on our past.

But for those who enjoy analyzing publications (and websites) like Athlon who make it their business to prognosticate, it seems we hold up pretty well with our predictions in recent years. Last year, according to the website stassen.com, Athlon was judged to be the most accurate forecaster of the Football Bowl Subdivision (Division I-A) conferences. In fact, over the last three years, Athlon ranks number one in accuracy. Do all of our predictions come true? Obviously not, but our editors have done pretty well over the years.

If you believe Athlon to be on a hot streak, then you might want to pay attention to the Florida Gators. As you can see on page 40, Tim Tebow's team is our projected national champion. During my tenure here, I can never remember as much debate over our No. 1 team. Last year, we debated into the following day over No. 2, but a consensus for No. 1 has typically come fairly quickly. This year, there were powerful arguments for Ohio State, USC and Oklahoma. But in the end, it was the Gators getting the lion's share of the support.

If the Gators make it three national titles in a row for the SEC, fans in the South can crow loud and long as their conference reigns supreme. But which conference is the best? It depends on who you ask, as we found in our Conference Supremacy feature on page 34. Most opinions sway toward the SEC. At least for now.

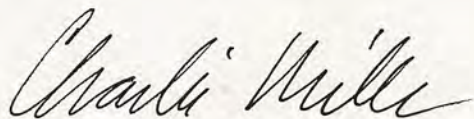
If teams are to overtake Florida for the national title, chances are they will employ a defensive coordinator who can defend the spread offense. The spread, invented by current Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez, is quickly becoming the offense of choice for national powers. On page 22, you can read about how defensive minds across the country are defending this new-fangled attack.

Another phenomenon catching steam is college football fantasy. Immensely popular with the NFL, the fantasy concept works just as well with college players. If you're ready to dive into the college game, turn to the back of the magazine and you'll find our rankings to help you draft your team. Take note of teams with potent spread offenses. Central Michigan comes to mind.

I hope you enjoy all the aspects of our College Football magazines this summer, and I hope you'll turn to athlonsports.com this fall to follow your favorite teams. We'll preview every game and break down every weekend, even while Saturday's games are still going on.

We'd love to know what's on your mind. Email us at editor@athlonsports.com.

Enjoy the Season!



Charlie Miller, Editorial Director

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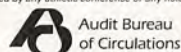
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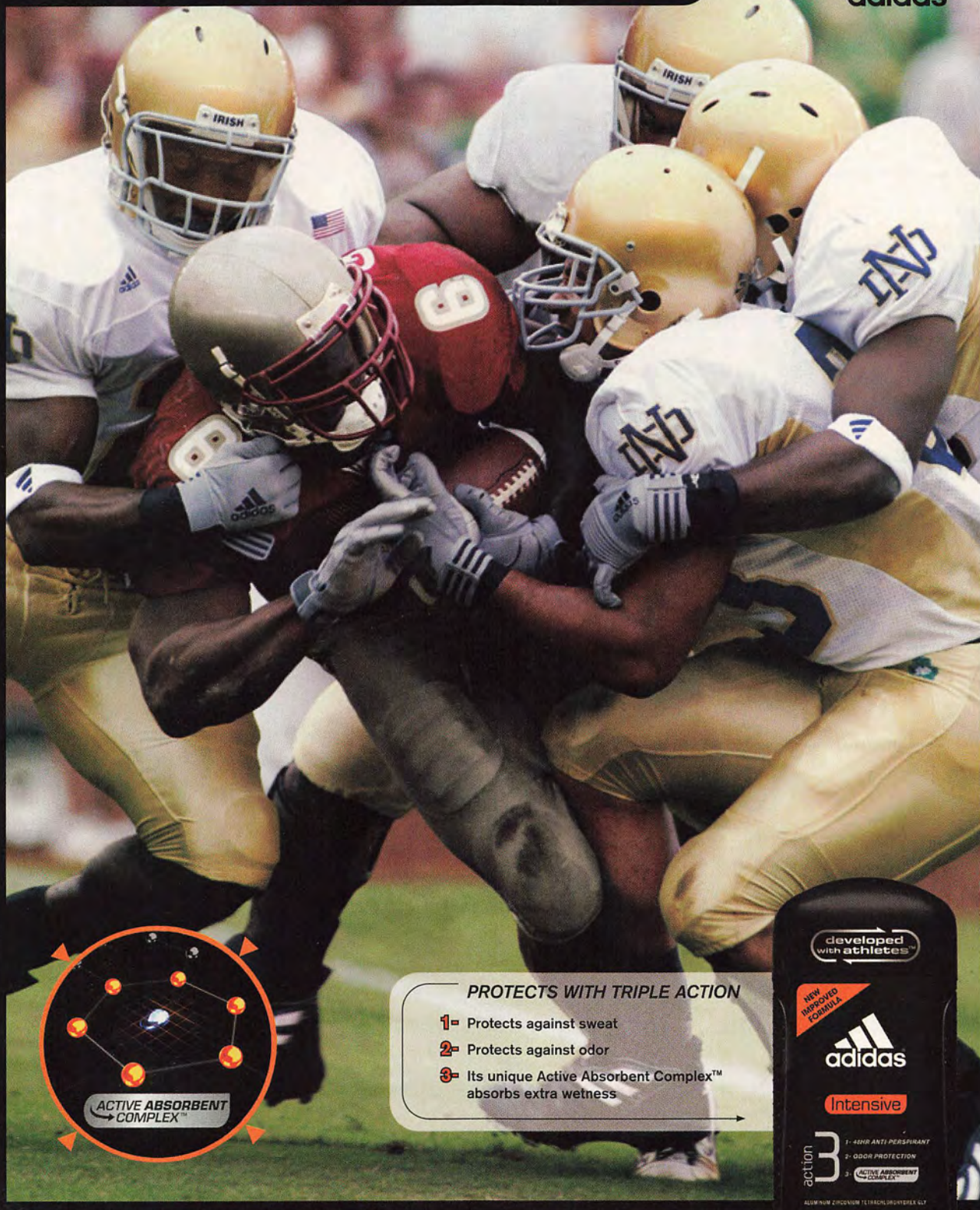
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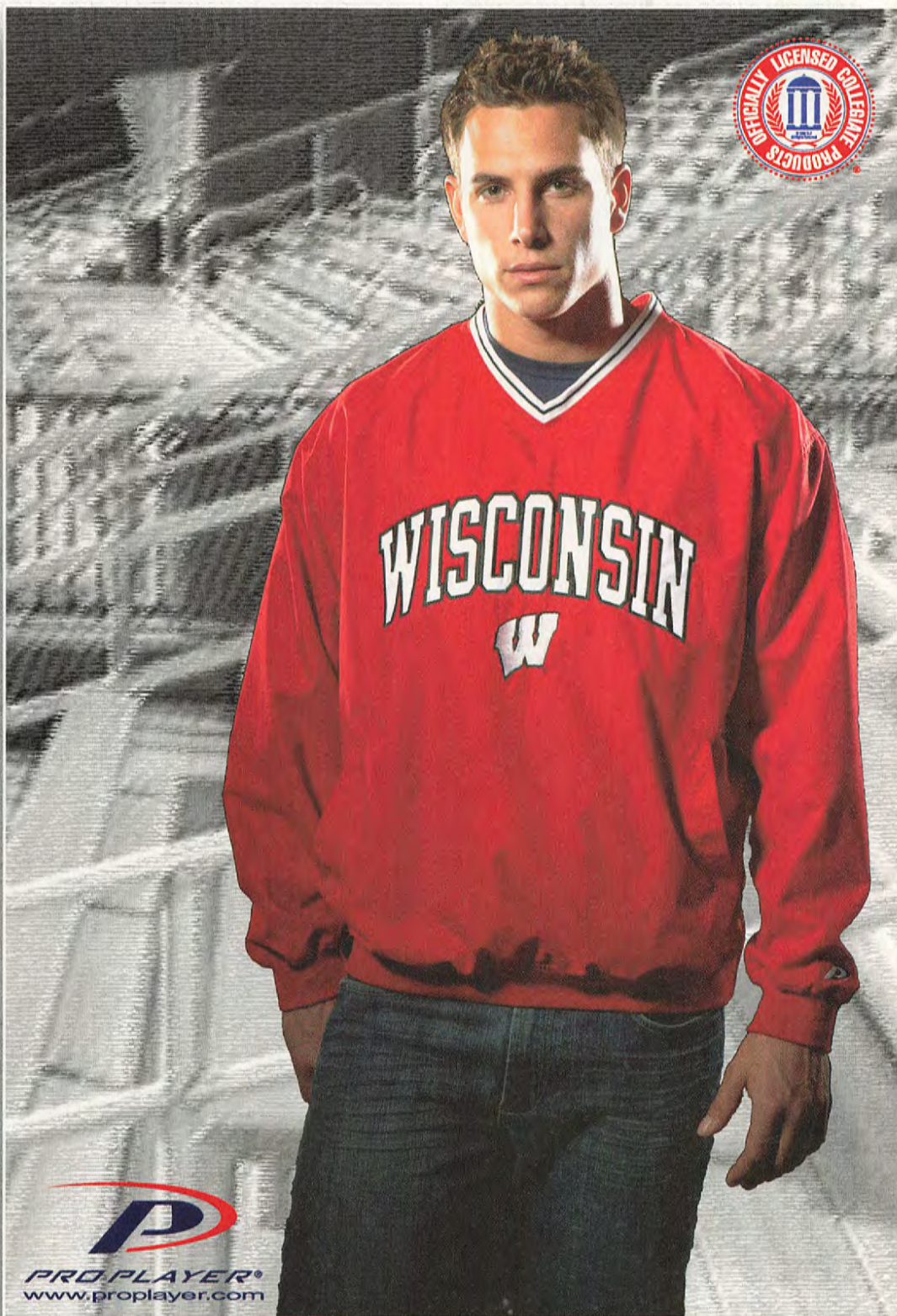
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**12 EXTRA POINTS**

Heisman contenders, teams on the rise, ranking the conferences, QB battles and much, much more.

22 STOPPING THE SPREAD

College football's offense du jour isn't the unstoppable force that it might appear to be. But you have to have a plan.

28 TOP 40 RECRUITS OF 2003

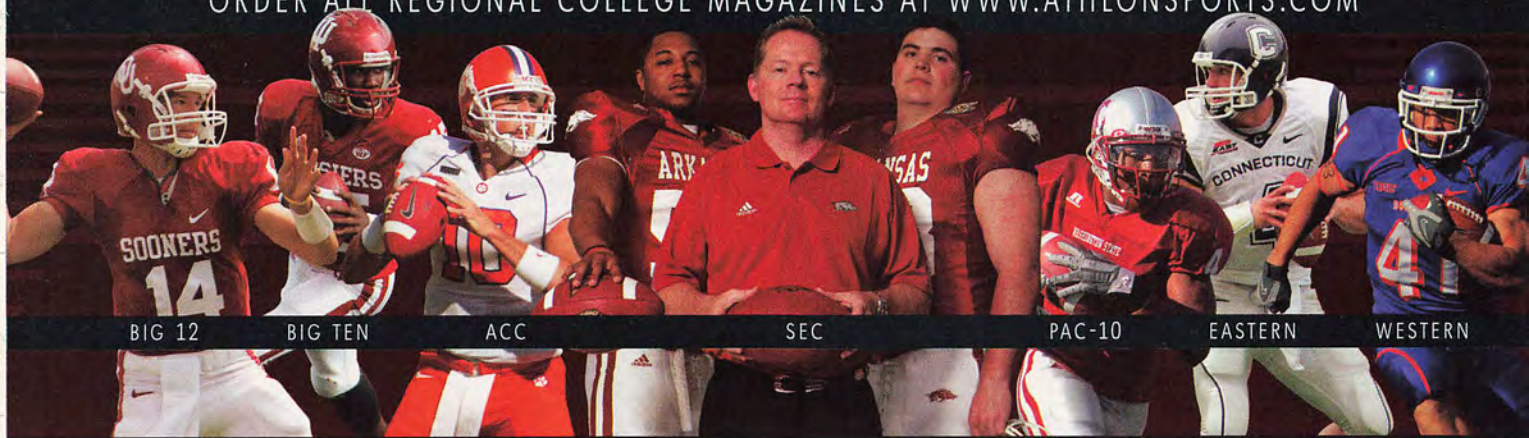
Reggie Bush and JaMarcus Russell certainly panned out, but the recruiting class of '03 had its share of misses, too.

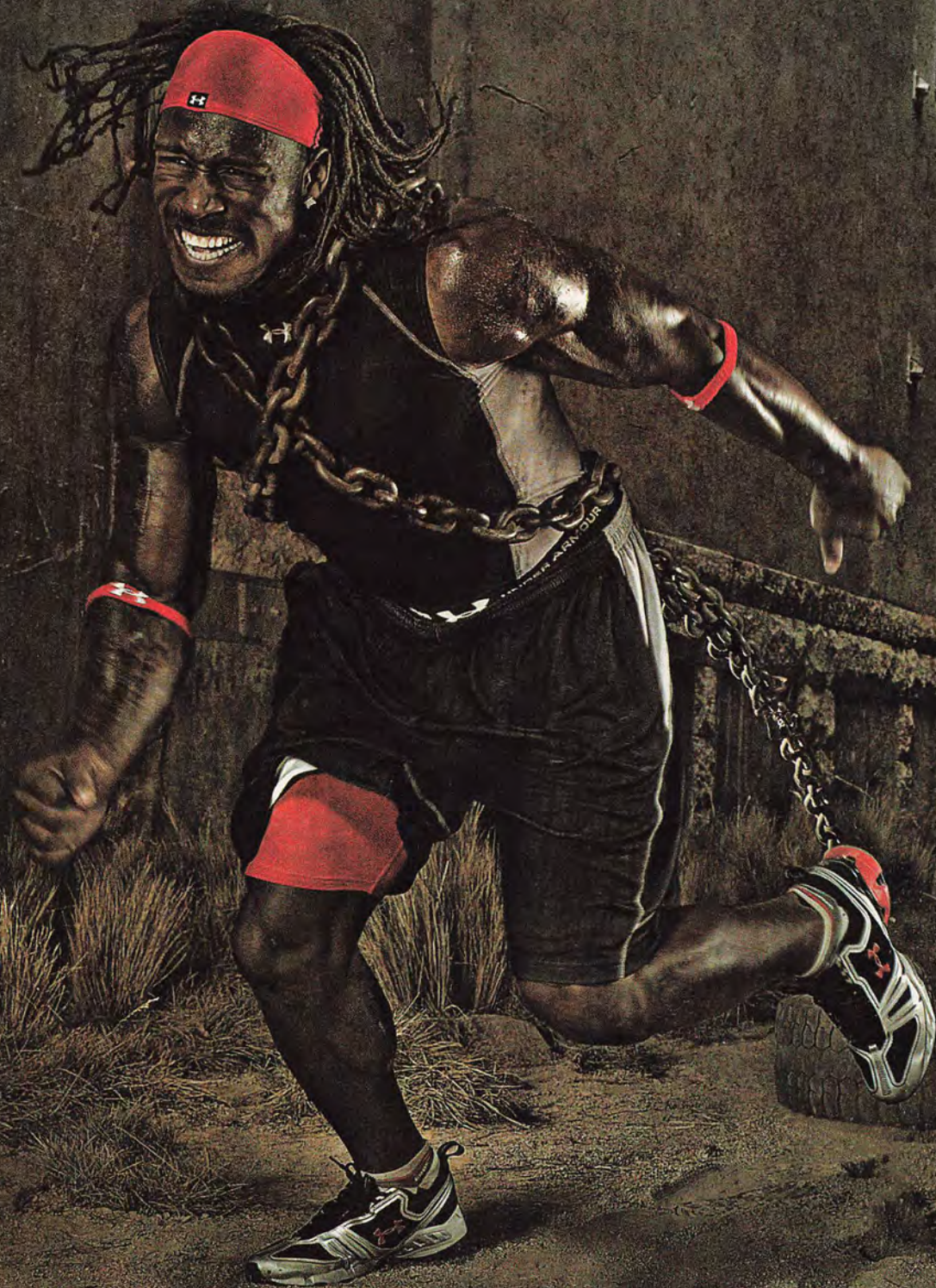
34 CONFERENCE SUPREMACY

Aside from the issue of a playoff, no subject stimulates as much debate as this simple question: Which conference is truly the best?



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40 PRESEASON TOP 25

An SEC heavyweight tops this year's rankings, but from there, things are as wide-open as ever. Find out who's in the hunt to join the Gators in Miami for the BCS Championship game.

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When even the reigning Heisman winner has competition at his position, you know it's a great year for talent. We present the best of the best.

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Who's got the best line in the SEC? The best backs in the Big Ten? Glad you asked.

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True spirit isn't confined to the field of play. Much of what makes college football special can be found on the sidelines. For evidence, just look to your left.

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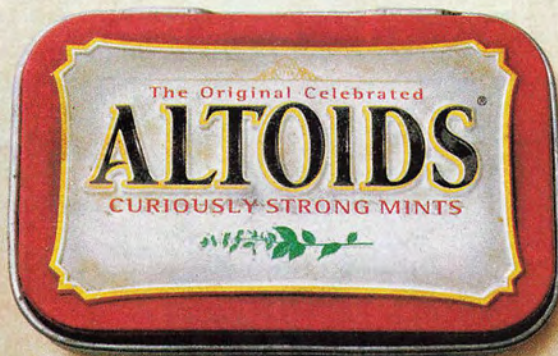


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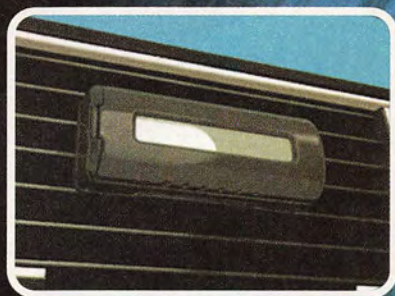
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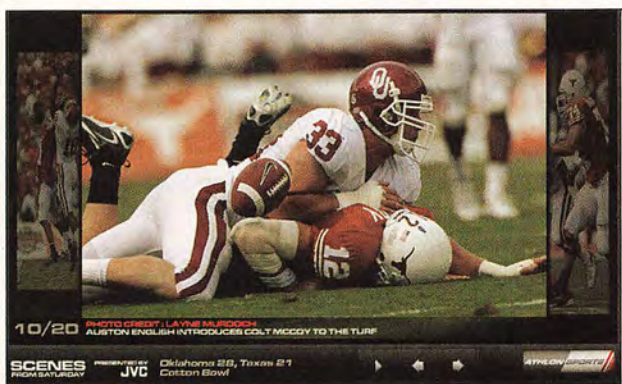
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COLLEGE FOOTBALL RECRUITING ATHLON CONSENSUS 100							
Rank	Name	Hometown	Pos	Ht.	Wt.	ESPN Rank	PrepStar Rank
1	Pryor, Terrelle	Jeannette, PA (Jeannette HS)	QB	6'5"	230	4	1
(597) The two sport star finally chose Ohio State over PSU and Mich. State.							
2	Jones, Julio	Foley, AL (Foley HS)	WR	6'4"	216	2	4
(591) The top player in the south is headed to Alabama.							
3	Scott, Darrell	Ventura, CA (St. Bonaventure HS)	RB	6'1"	208	9	2
(583) Scott could start immediately in Boulder, CO.							



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EXTRA POINTS



Tim Tebow, QB, Florida

Winning a second consecutive Heisman Trophy is improbable but not impossible because Florida's offense will thrive. Tebow should not take as much of a beating and should not lead the Gators in rushing again because of the presence of running backs Chris Rainey and Emmanuel Moody.

HEISMAN FAVORITES

Chase Daniel, QB, Missouri Missouri needs to beat Illinois in the season-opener to amplify the buzz around Daniel. But the Tigers will score enough points for Daniel to be among the favorites for the second consecutive year.

Pat White, QB, West Virginia Don't underestimate White's value. He went down with injuries in the two games West Virginia lost last season. White won't get overshadowed by Steve Slaton, but will Noel Devine steal some of the limelight?

Knowshon Moreno, RB, Georgia Special K was the best freshman running back in Athens since Herschel Walker more than a quarter-century ago. The Bulldogs will be in the spotlight all season, and so will Moreno.

Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma The Sooners are loaded offensively, which should help Bradford build on a season in which he set a freshman record with 36 touchdown passes. The play of Oklahoma's secondary will help determine whether the Sooners are in national title contention, but Bradford's numbers should be there.

Chris Wells, RB, Ohio State After amassing more than 1,600 rushing yards, Beanie Wells should be a dominant back behind a strong offensive line. What is less certain is whether the Buckeyes can do something they have failed to do the past two years: win the BCS title game.

TWELVE OTHERS TO WATCH

Colt McCoy, QB, Texas McCoy's 51 touchdown passes over two seasons are the most in consecutive years in Texas history. He has also produced 37 plays of 30 yards or more and will need to have a hand in several more big plays to emerge as a Heisman favorite.

Graham Harrell, QB, Texas Tech Unlike some previous Red Raider signal-callers, Harrell is not a system quarterback. He led the nation in total offense and threw for more than 400 yards in all but two games.

Michael Crabtree, WR, Texas Tech After setting NCAA freshman records for receptions (134), receiving yards (1,962) and touchdowns (22), Crabtree will go for an encore with Harrell back under center.

Cullen Harper, QB, Clemson Harper set the bar high by throwing a school-record 27 TD passes in 2007. But will his offensive line protect him?

Armanti Edwards, QB, Appalachian State All Edwards does is win national championships. Does he have a realistic chance at the Heisman? Not really. But we'll know more when the Mountaineers leave LSU's Death Valley on Aug. 30.

Jeremy Maclin, WR, Missouri Maclin collected 2,776 all-purpose yards, the fifth-most ever by a Division I-A player. He should be even better this season.

Joe McKnight, RB, USC The former hyped recruit hopes to build on his Rose Bowl performance, when he amassed 125 rushing yards and 45 receiving yards.

Juice Williams, QB, Illinois Williams ranked 12th in the Big Ten in total offense. He's ready to take the next step in his progression as a quarterback.

Percy Harvin, WR/RB, Florida Harvin ran for 764 yards and six touchdowns last season and caught 59 passes for 858 yards and four scores.

Todd Boeckman, QB, Ohio State A third consecutive berth in the national title game could propel Boeckman into the conversation.

Jake Locker, QB, Washington The West Coast's Tim Tebow? He finished fifth in the Pac-10 in rushing with 82.2 yards per game.

Matthew Stafford, QB, Georgia Fundamentals were the emphasis all spring. If Stafford takes the next step in his evolution, he could be in the discussion.

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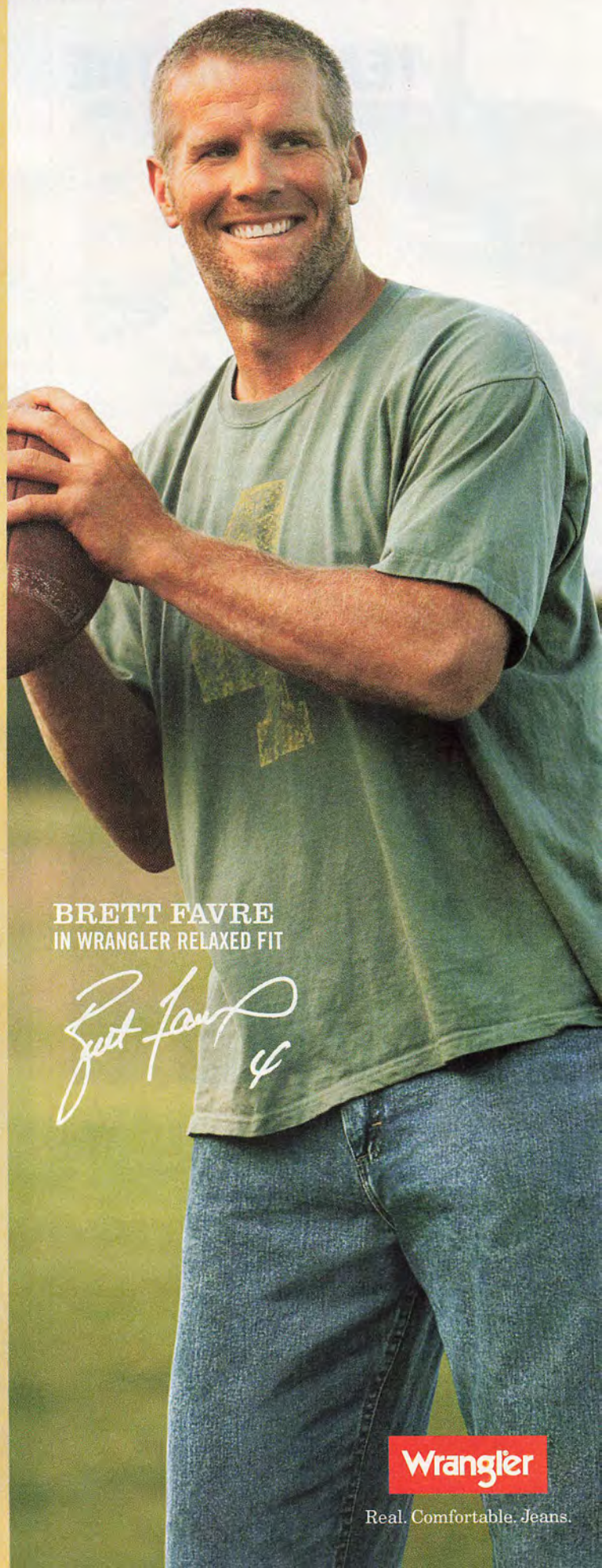
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TEAMS ON THE

RISE



NOTRE DAME No one is waking up national title echoes, but the Fighting Irish can't go anywhere but up, right? Coach Charlie Weis handed over his playcalling duties and hired well-regarded defensive mind Jon Tenuta from Georgia Tech. That's a start.

UCLA Rick Neuheisel brings his "passion bucket" to Los Angeles. Offensive coordinator Norm Chow and defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker are in place to make the Bruins a perennial contender in the Pac-10, sooner rather than later.

TEXAS TECH Put the nation's best wide receiver on the field with the nation's passing leader and an experienced offensive line and then sit back and count the points. Coach Mike Leach must be salivating.

PITTSBURGH After managing to contain West Virginia's vaunted offense last year, the Panthers bring back the majority of their defense. Former SMU coach Phil Bennett, who thrived under Bill Snyder almost a decade ago, is now the defensive coordinator. And don't forget: Tailback LeSean McCoy should be even better this season.

NORTH CAROLINA Butch Davis and his staff could realize the fruits of their outstanding 2007 recruiting haul this fall. Virginia Tech looks to be the class of the ACC Coastal, but don't be surprised if the Heels edge out Miami for second place.

EXTRAPOINTS

TEAMS ON THE DECLINE

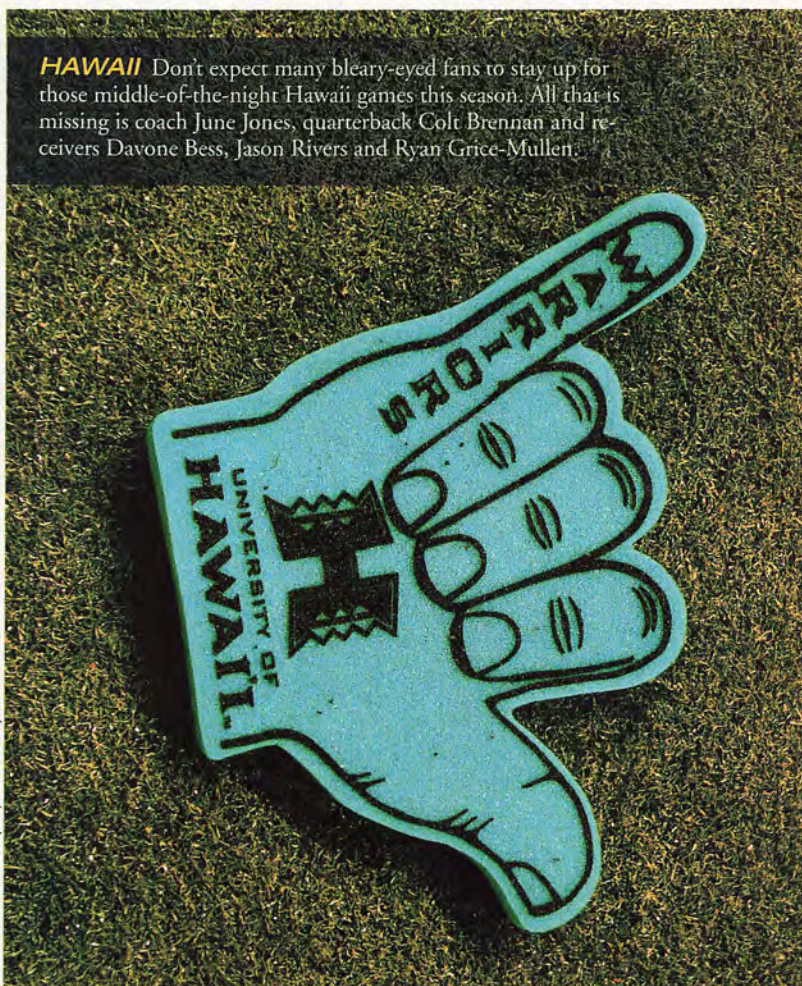
KENTUCKY The Wildcats were bound to take a step backward after losing quarterback Andre' Woodson. But the losses of receivers Keenan Burton and Steve Johnson, tight end Jacob Tamme and versatile tailback Rafael Little are also tough to overcome.

ARKANSAS Bobby Petrino arrived, but Darren McFadden and Felix Jones departed, making it difficult for the Razorbacks to duplicate their success. Quarterback Ryan Mallett will look good in an Arkansas uniform — in 2009.

BOSTON COLLEGE In the spirit of a former Boston Celtics coach, Matt Ryan is not walking through that door. Chris Crane, who has started one game over the last three seasons, will try to fill Ryan's shoes.

LOUISVILLE The Cardinals went from a national title contender to a middling team because of one of the nation's worst defenses. Coach Steve Kragthorpe overhauled the defensive staff, but results need to follow.

HAWAII Don't expect many bleary-eyed fans to stay up for those middle-of-the-night Hawaii games this season. All that is missing is coach June Jones, quarterback Colt Brennan and receivers Davone Bess, Jason Rivers and Ryan Grice-Mullen.



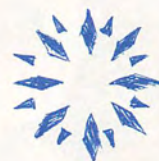
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RANKINGS

SEC

1

Favorite: Florida

Anyone who followed the week-to-week results in the SEC last season knows that the conference is almost too strong for its own good. There are no easy games, particularly on the road. Losing one game in conference play is akin to going undefeated in other conferences. The SEC may have had the best two teams in the nation last season — Georgia and LSU — and the league may have four top-10 teams this season. Bobby Petrino's return to college football won't make the conference any easier.

Big 12

2

Favorite: Oklahoma

No conference has a comparable collection of starting quarterbacks. At least four — Oklahoma's Sam Bradford, Texas's Colt McCoy, Missouri's Chase Daniel and Texas Tech's Graham Harrell — should garner some Heisman attention this fall. And that's not even mentioning All-America receivers Michael Crabtree at Texas Tech and Jeremy Maclin at Missouri. Expectations are particularly high at Texas Tech. Oklahoma should play with a chip on its shoulder following a second straight Fiesta Bowl loss. Coming off a resurgent season, Kansas faces a significantly tougher schedule.

Big Ten

3

Favorite: Ohio State

The Buckeyes are the class of the conference and have a reasonable path to a third straight berth in the national championship game. The return of running back P.J. Hill makes Wisconsin the strongest challenger for the Buckeyes. The loss of linebacker Sean Lee, who tore knee ligaments in the spring, will significantly hurt Penn State's hopes of contending. The biggest question is how quickly Michigan players will grasp Rich Rodriguez's up-tempo offense. Quarterbacks Curtis Painter and Juice Williams return to Purdue and Illinois, respectively, but both teams lost notable playmakers.

Pac-10

4

Favorite: USC

UCLA received the biggest offseason boost by hiring coach Rick Neuheisel and offensive coordinator Norm Chow. But that other team from Los Angeles remains the conference's most serious national title contender. USC has its usual herd of running backs but must get consistent production out of quarterback Mark Sanchez. Dennis Erickson's Arizona State team will vie for the conference crown, but the Sun Devils face a tougher schedule than they did last season. Arizona coach Mike Stoops and Washington's Ty Willingham both enter the season under scrutiny.

ACC

5

Favorite: Clemson

Clemson is the ACC team best positioned to make a BCS game, but will the Tigers let their fans down again? Tommy Bowden's team is usually good for an unforeseen loss or two. Virginia Tech has issues at tailback after returning starter Branden Ore was dismissed in the offseason. The Hokies also have a quarterback controversy on their hands: Will it be Sean Glennon or Tyrod Taylor? Wake Forest, Maryland, Florida State, North Carolina and Miami could all challenge for the league title as well, but there appears to be little separation among those schools.

Big East

6

Favorite: West Virginia

South Florida has formally moved into the top tier of the Big East and should provide the stiffest challenge to West Virginia, which returns quarterback Pat White and a formidable offensive line. Rutgers has quarterback Mike Teel back, but running back Ray Rice is gone. Louisville's downtrodden defense can only improve under defensive coordinator Ron English. The wild card is a Pittsburgh team that returns the bulk of its defense as well as emerging star tailback LeSean McCoy.

Mountain West

7

Favorite: *BYU*

BYU is the trendy pick to crash the BCS party. The Cougars should have no trouble scoring points with quarterback Max Hall and running back Harvey Unga in the backfield. But they will have trouble emerging from the MWC schedule unscathed because of Utah, which was one of the nation's hottest teams at the end of last season. Quarterback Brian Johnson will lead the Utes against BYU at home on Nov. 22, in a game that could have BCS implications.

Conference USA

8

Favorite: *Tulsa*

Tulsa lost quarterback Paul Smith but returns many of the playmakers on an offense that finished first nationally in total offense. It is imperative that the Golden Hurricane improve a defense that ranked 108th in yards allowed. UCF lost Kevin Smith, the nation's rushing leader, but returns nine starters on defense. It will take time, but SMU is at least headed in the right direction with June Jones on the sideline.

MAC

9

Favorite: *Central Michigan*

MAC teams earned key victories over BCS teams last season and will be in position to make an even bigger splash this fall because the league should be stronger. Central Michigan quarterback Dan LeFevour, the 2007 MAC Player of the Year, and Ball State quarterback Nate Davis are worth watching.

WAC

10

Favorite: *Fresno State*

The problem with the WAC is that there is a considerable drop-off after the top tier. Fresno State and Boise State are both nationally relevant, but it remains to be seen whether anyone else in the league can emerge as a challenger. Hawaii will take a step back from the national radar after losing its coach, quarterback and best receivers. The Warriors' performance in the Sugar Bowl did not help the reputation of the conference, either.

Sun Belt

11

Favorite: *Florida Atlantic*

Florida Atlantic has nine starters back on offense, including quarterback Rusty Smith. The Owls ranked 16th nationally in passing last season and should feature an exciting aerial attack again. Troy, which beat Oklahoma State last season, should also be strong, but the Trojans will play Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Fla.

TOP FIRST-YEAR ASSISTANTS

Norm Chow, offensive coordinator, UCLA It may take a few years for the effects of Chow's arrival to show, but he should immediately pay dividends for senior quarterback Ben Olson, who will ascend to the top spot on the depth chart due to Patrick Cowan's injury.

Jon Tenuta, assistant head coach/defense, Notre Dame Notre Dame's defense has been in need of a makeover, and there aren't too many assistants better equipped to provide one than Tenuta. Corwin Brown remains defensive coordinator, but the aggressive, blitzing mindset Tenuta had at Georgia Tech will only help.

Ron English, defensive coordinator, Louisville Syracuse scored 38 points (though one TD was on special teams) against the Cardinals, and South Florida racked up 55 points. English should instill more toughness in a unit that ranked 115th nationally in pass efficiency defense.

Will Muschamp, defensive coordinator, Texas Texas' pass defense ranked 109th in the country. Muschamp led Auburn's pass defense to a No. 6 ranking in the country. That's what's called a good fit.

Dan McCarney, defensive line coach, Florida McCarney is a veteran coach who turned around Iowa State's program and last season was an assistant at emerging South Florida. He has a passionate personality and demands accountability from his players.

Tony Franklin, offensive coordinator, Auburn Can a smash-mouth defense co-exist with a no-huddle spread attack? We'll find out this fall at Auburn.

TOP NON-BCS TEAMS

1. BYU The Cougars are everyone's favorite non-BCS team this fall. They have the nation's longest win streak (10) and eight starters back on offense. The Cougars have won 11 games each of the past two seasons.

2. Fresno State Quarterback Tom Brandstater gives the Bulldogs a chance to thrive offensively. But is the schedule too tough? Road games against Rutgers, Boise State and UCLA, not to mention a home date with Wisconsin, are all difficult.

3. Utah The Utes have some holes to fill defensively, but they have quarterback Brian Johnson back on a team that won eight of its last nine games. They also play BYU at home.

TOP IMPACT FRESHMEN

1. Julio Jones, WR, Alabama

Alabama has much of its offense back but needs receivers. Enter Jones, the nation's top-rated receiver. This is what is called addressing a need. Are the expectations too high?

2. Da'Quan Bowers, DE, Clemson

A physical specimen, Bowers will play early and often for the Tigers. Coach Tommy Bowden loves his balance, acceleration and, of course, his size.

3. Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado

Dan Hawkins signed the best running back in the country. Scott spurned Texas because he was reportedly uncomfortable with the change of running backs coaches in Austin.

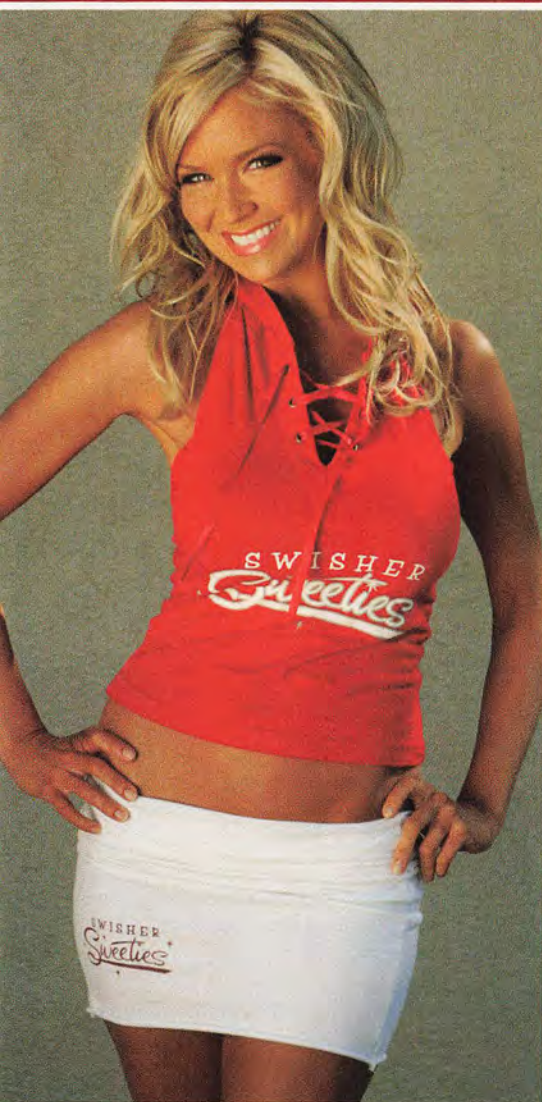
4. Patrick Johnson, CB, LSU

A physical and athletic corner, Johnson should see significant playing time this season for the defending national champs. Johnson is related to Washington Redskins receiver Santana Moss.

5. Blair Walsh, K, Georgia

Is he the one missing piece in a Georgia national title run? Perhaps. The Bulldogs will need a strong kicker to navigate what promises to be an arduous schedule.

**HOT SWEETIES.
COLD CASH.**



EXTRAPOINTS

TOP QUARTERBACK BATTLES



CALIFORNIA No quarterback competition may last longer than the one coach Jeff Tedford holds in August. Nate Longshore (above, left) could not finish spring practice because he pulled a pectoral muscle. The last memory Cal fans have of Kevin Riley was of him rallying the Bears from a 21-point deficit in the Armed Forces Bowl. The battle is on in Berkeley.

MICHIGAN Lloyd Carr retired, Chad Henne departed, Rich Rodriguez arrived and Ryan Mallett transferred. That left Rodriguez with — well, let's just say he doesn't have Pat White to run his spread offense in his first season in Ann Arbor. He spent the spring deciding between Steven Threet, a Georgia Tech transfer, and Nick Sheridan, who came to Michigan as a walk-on.

MIAMI Coach Randy Shannon still has 29 practices before he has to pick a starting quarterback. Robert Marve, Jacory Harris and Cannon Smith are all still in contention. None has taken a college snap. But after Kyle Wright and Kirby Freeman combined to throw 20 interceptions last season, any selection could be an upgrade.

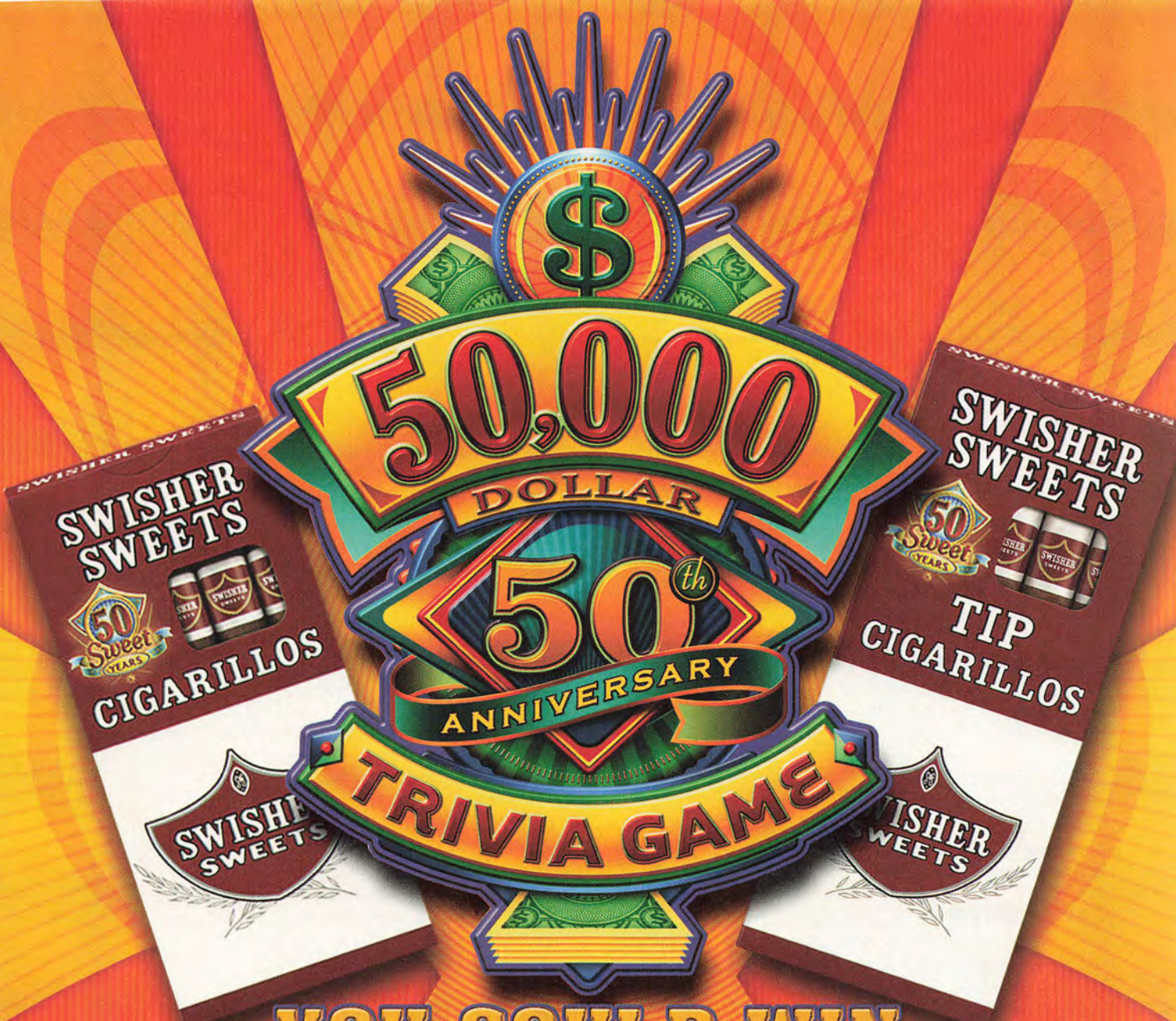
LSU With the troubled Ryan Perrilloux out of the picture, either Jarrett Lee or Andrew Hatch (a former Harvard Crimson) will take over the controls for the defending national champs. Hatch threw two passes last year; Lee, a redshirt freshman, has yet to play a down at LSU.

USC Pete Carroll took some drama out of this competition by naming Mark Sanchez the starter over Mitch Mustain, a transfer from Arkansas. If Sanchez engineers an early-season victory over Ohio State, he quickly becomes a Heisman contender. If not, Mustain will be ready to come out of the bullpen.

VIRGINIA TECH The Sean Glennon-Tyrod Taylor rotation worked well enough late last year, but Frank Beamer and his staff would like to settle on a full-time signal-caller. Taylor is the fan favorite, but the coaches trust the steady Glennon to run the offense.

Peter Brouillet





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RANKING THE NEW COACHES OF 2007

We've ranked the job performance of each of the 24 first-year head coaches from 2007, from best to worst.

1. TROY CALHOUN, AIR FORCE

Before: 4-8 (3-5) After: 9-4 (6-2)

The Air Force grad and former Houston Texans offensive coordinator guided the Falcons to their best conference record since 1998, when they went 7-1 while still in the WAC.

2. DENNIS ERICKSON, ARIZONA STATE

Before: 7-6 (4-5) After: 10-3 (7-2)

He might not be the most respected coach in the business, but Erickson did what he does at every stop — win a bunch of games. Arizona State's 10 wins were the most at the school since 1996.

3. BRIAN KELLY, CINCINNATI

Before: 8-5 (4-3) After: 10-3 (4-3)

The Big East record was the same as in 2006, but Kelly put the Bearcats on the map last season with nationally televised wins over Oregon State, Rutgers and South Florida.

4. JEFF JAGODZINSKI, BOSTON COLLEGE

Before: 10-3 (5-3) After: 11-3 (6-2)

Coach Jag guided the Eagles to an Atlantic Division title on the strength of Matt Ryan's passing and one of the ACC's top defenses.

5. BILL LYNCH, INDIANA

Before: 5-7 (3-5) After: 7-6 (3-5)

Filling in for the beloved Terry Hoepfner, Lynch led the Hoosiers to a bowl game for the first time since 1993. He was given the job on a full-time basis in late November.

6. MARK DANTONIO, MICHIGAN STATE

Before: 4-8 (1-7) After: 7-6 (3-5)

He might not be flashy, but Dantonio had the Spartans out of the Big Ten cellar and back in a bowl game after a three-year drought — the longest in East Lansing since the early 1980s.

7. TODD GRAHAM, TULSA

Before: 8-5 (5-3) After: 10-4 (6-2)

After a wildly successful one-year stint at Rice, Graham guided the Golden Hurricane to the C-USA West title thanks in large part to the nation's top-ranked offense.

8. NICK SABAN, ALABAMA

Before: 6-7 (2-6) After: 7-6 (4-4)

The Tide imploded down the stretch — losing their final four regular-season games — but they did win two more league games under Saban's watch. It also must be noted that Saban signed arguably the nation's top recruiting class in February.

9. JIM HARBAUGH, STANFORD

Before: 1-11 (1-8) After: 4-8 (3-6)

The feisty former NFL quarterback injected some enthusiasm into the Stanford program. The Cardinal's 24-23 win at No. 1 USC will go down as one of the biggest upsets in the history of college football.



10. BUTCH JONES, CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Before: 10-4 (7-1) After: 8-6 (6-1)

Jones inherited a conference championship, and he won a conference championship. The former West Virginia assistant interviewed with the Mountaineers in late December but signed a new deal with CMU in January.

11. DEREK DOOLEY, LOUISIANA TECH

Before: 3-10 (1-7) After: 5-7 (4-4)

Very quietly, Vince Dooley's son did a solid job in Ruston. The Bulldogs increased their league wins from one to four and finished in a

three-way tie for fourth place in the WAC. Dooley is now his own boss, after becoming Tech's athletic director in the offseason.

12. TOM O'BRIEN, NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Before: 3-9 (2-6) After: 5-7 (3-5)

O'Brien accomplished exactly what he was hired to do — restore some discipline to the North Carolina State program. Now, it's time to bring the Pack back to a bowl game.

13. BUTCH DAVIS, NORTH CAROLINA

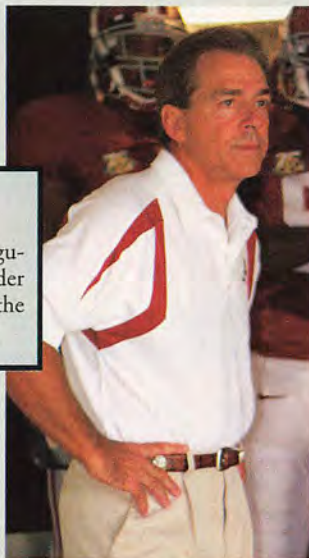
Before: 3-9 (2-6) After: 4-8 (3-5)

The Tar Heels lost six games by seven points or less and four games by three points or less. If Davis continues his strong recruiting, North Carolina should continue its climb up the ACC standings.

14. GENE CHIZIK, IOWA STATE

Before: 4-8 (1-7) After: 3-9 (2-6)

It was a rough start for Chizik — with season-opening losses to Kent State and Northern Iowa at home — but the Clones beat rival Iowa and won two of their final three Big 12 games.



15. BOB TOLEDO, TULANE

Before: 4-8 (2-6) After: 4-8 (3-5)

Toledo inherited a very difficult situation and managed to keep the Green Wave competitive in Conference USA. His tailback, Matt Forté, ranked second in the nation in rushing.

16. MARIO CRISTOBAL, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

Before: 0-12 (0-7) After: 1-11 (1-6)

The Golden Panthers snapped their 23-game losing streak with a season-ending 38-19 win over North Texas. Cristobal has plenty of work to do in his hometown.

17. TODD DODGE, NORTH TEXAS

Before: 3-9 (2-5) After: 2-10 (1-6)

North Texas improved its offensive output by 176 yards per game under the former high school coaching legend, but the Mean Green went 2-10 and tied for last in the Sun Belt.

18. STAN BROCK, ARMY

Before: 3-9 After: 3-9

The Black Knights regressed on defense and lost six games by 20 points or more. This once-proud program continues to struggle.

19. RANDY SHANNON, MIAMI

Before: 7-6 (3-5) After: 5-7 (2-6)

Thanks to a banner 2008 recruiting class, things are looking up in Coral Gables, but you can't ignore the fact that the Canes lost six of their final seven games, including a disturbing 48-0 Orange Bowl-closing loss to a mediocre Virginia team.



20. NEIL CALLAWAY, UAB

Before: 3-9 (2-6) After: 2-10 (1-7)

The Blazers ranked in the 100s in total offense and total defense and averaged 16,706 fans (102nd in the nation) in 72,000-seat Legion Field.

21. ROBB AKEY, IDAHO

Before: 4-8 (3-5) After: 1-11 (0-8)

Cleaning up Dennis Erickson's mess isn't always easy, but the Vandals managed to win only one game, over Division I-AA Cal Poly.

22. DAVID BAILIFF, RICE

Before: 7-6 (6-2) After: 3-9 (3-5)

The Owls won half as many league games under Bailiff, the former head coach at Division I-AA Texas State. They opened the season with a loss to Nicholls State.

23. STEVE KRAGTHORPE, LOUISVILLE

Before: 12-1 (6-1) After: 6-6 (3-4)

No team was a bigger disappointment than Louisville. The Cards' win total plummeted from 12 in 2006 to six in '07, and they suffered through their first losing conference season since 1997.



24. TIM BREWSTER, MINNESOTA

Before: 6-7 (3-5) After: 1-11 (0-8)

Brewster talks a good game, and he has done a good job on the recruiting trail, but the results in year one were disastrous. The Gophers ranked last in the nation in total defense en route to their first winless Big Ten season since 1988.

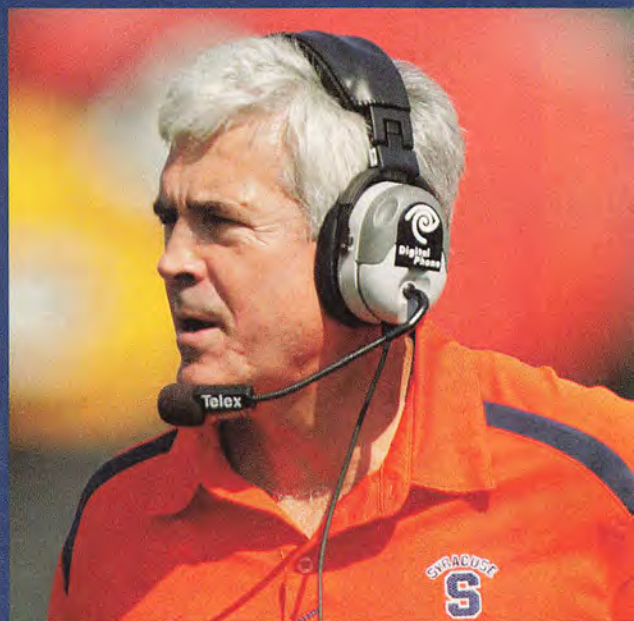
ON THE HOT SEAT

TY WILLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Washington decided to bring Willingham back after the Huskies limped through a difficult schedule. But this season's schedule includes non-conference games against BYU, Oklahoma and Notre Dame, which could make achieving a .500 record unlikely.

GREG ROBINSON, SYRACUSE

Yes, Robinson (below) is still with the Orange. Robinson has won two Big East games since he took over the Orange in 2005. Syracuse once used to beat up on Rutgers; now the Orange have become the league punchline.



KIRK FERENTZ, IOWA

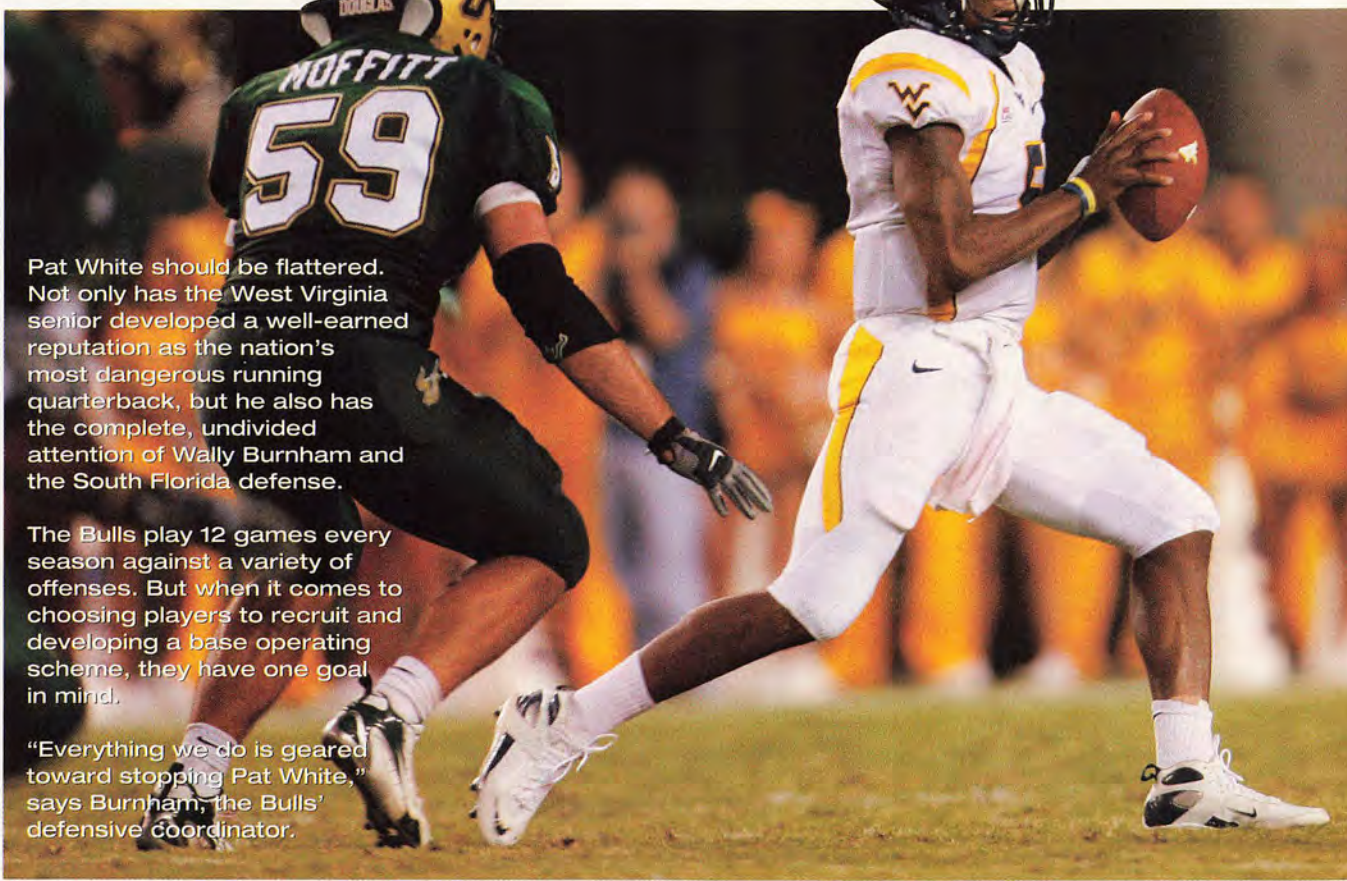
Beginning in 2002, Ferentz won at least 10 games for three consecutive years. But Iowa has not won more than seven games in any of the past three seasons. The schedule is favorable because Iowa plays Wisconsin at home and avoids Michigan and Ohio State. And the offense has to improve, right?

RON PRINCE, KANSAS STATE

The Wildcats imploded down the stretch last season, losing their final four games (including a 73-31 debacle at Nebraska) en route to a 5-7 overall record. Prince might be looking for a quick fix in Manhattan — his latest recruiting class featured 19 junior college transfers.

MIKE STOOPS, ARIZONA

A 17-29 record in four seasons, without one winning season, is not likely to engender tremendous support from most fan bases. The heat is on in Tucson.



Pat White should be flattered. Not only has the West Virginia senior developed a well-earned reputation as the nation's most dangerous running quarterback, but he also has the complete, undivided attention of Wally Burnham and the South Florida defense.

The Bulls play 12 games every season against a variety of offenses. But when it comes to choosing players to recruit and developing a base operating scheme, they have one goal in mind.

"Everything we do is geared toward stopping Pat White," says Burnham, the Bulls' defensive coordinator.

USF has done a pretty good job shutting down the Mountaineer quarterback and his spread-offense buddies. The Bulls have beaten WVU two years straight and have allowed a combined 32 points in the process. Imagine that — the scourge of the Big East limited to fewer than 20 points by the same team in back-to-back games. No wonder Burnham was such a popular guy during March and April. Consider him the coaching equivalent of Señor Frog's in Cancun. Everybody wanted to spend their spring break with him. His success in stopping the West Virginia spread has lured inquiring minds in search of ideas on how to control their opponents that run the thing. Not that Burnham is holding court, largely because he doesn't consider himself that brilliant. "That 'guru' bird doesn't stay on your shoulder that long," he says. Yeah, everything is cyclical, but there's another reason for Burnham's modesty. "We borrowed everything we use," he says. No defensive coach in the country could

blame Burnham for his ideological larceny, because they're all looking for ways to deal with the spread themselves. What was once a curiosity has mushroomed over the past five years into a prevailing wisdom in offensive football throughout the country. It's hard to find teams that don't incorporate at least some spread principles into their attack. Others are full-blown spread disciples who aim to compromise their defensive opponents by creating and then winning one-on-one matchups in open areas from sideline to sideline. As a result, any coach who has some success against the attack is pretty popular. And until someone solves the spread, as folks did with the wishbone, veer, run-n-shoot and other offenses that were fashionable at one time or another, defensive coaches will continue to look for new ideas.

"It changes every day," Burnham says. "The offensive coaches are doing a great job of changing blocking assignments, so that you're trying to figure out who has the running back and who has the quarterback."

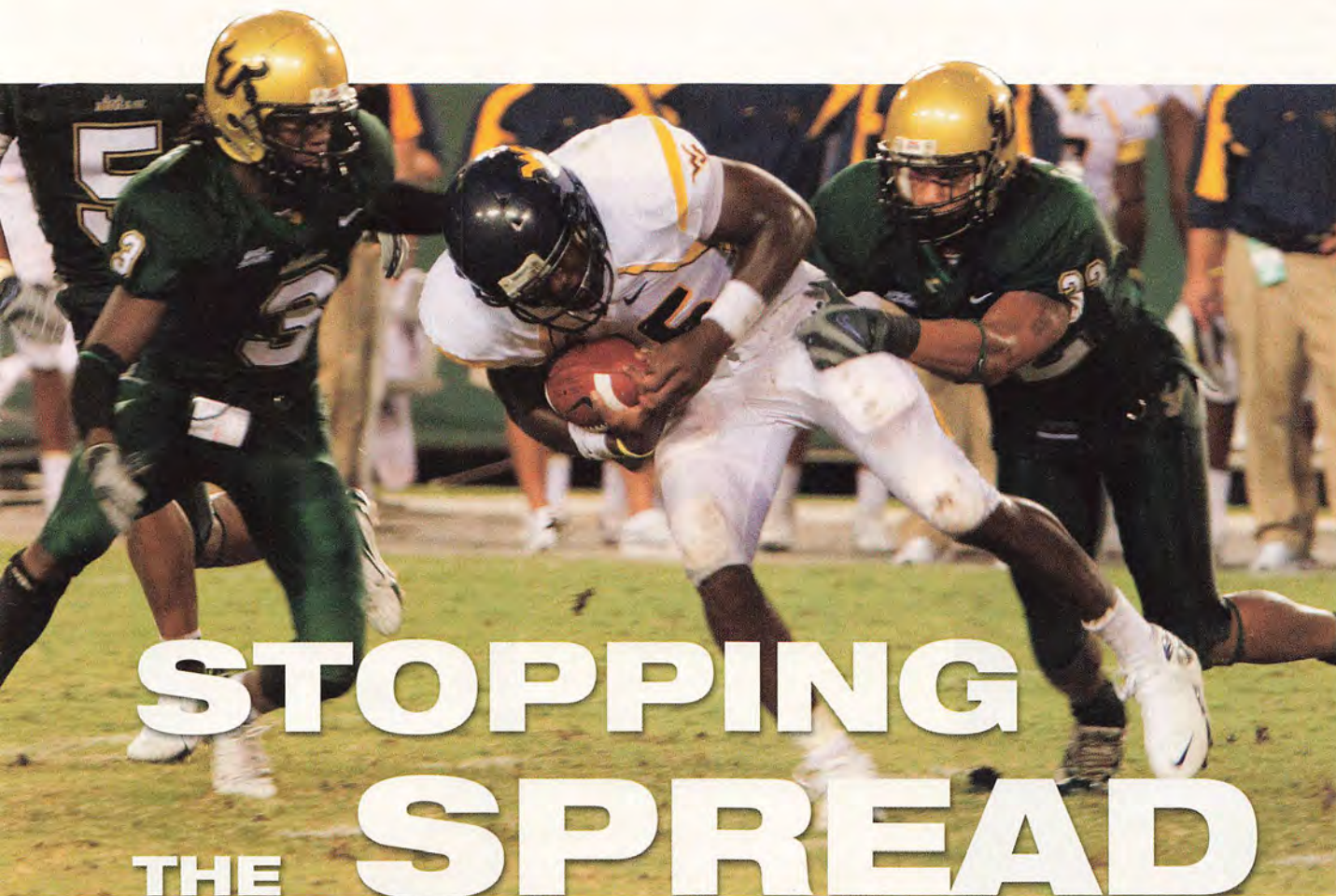
It's tough, all right. But it's not impossible. Burnham and his pals have devised some strategies to control — and sometimes stop

— the spread. As you might imagine, they aren't so forthcoming with the particulars, since football coaches guard their secrets as closely as high-ranking government officials protect the nuclear launch codes. They did, however, share some principles and ideas.

The Target Because there are so many different variations of the spread offense, it's hard to classify one, generic version of the thing. Texas Tech arrays its skill players from Lubbock to Amarillo and then passes the ball 60 times per game. Under Rich Rodriguez, West Virginia was primarily a running team from the attack. Kansas was balanced in the offense, running only 36 more times than it threw in 1988 plays last year. No matter how teams use it, the goal remains the same.

"They're trying to get (defenses) to play in space," Purdue defensive coordinator Brock Spack says. "They're creating matchups and trying to find a winner out there."

A key staple of the spread, especially for those who use it primarily to run, is the zone read play. Just about everything a team can do offensively has the capacity to sprout from it.



STOPPING THE SPREAD

by Michael Bradley

It can work as a simple handoff or as a fake that triggers a quarterback run. It's the precursor to an option pitch or play-action before a pass. Consider it the spread's pair of khaki pants, infinite in its versatility. And a real pain to defenses. The play looks pretty simple in its basic form. The running back sets up next to the quarterback, who is in the shotgun. At the snap, he crosses in front of the quarterback, who reads the defensive end from the side on which the back has aligned himself. On a basic read, if the end comes upfield, the quarterback keeps the ball and heads around the corner. If the end stays put, the quarterback hands it off. If you think it sounds familiar, you're right.

"It gets back to old option football," says Iowa defensive coordinator Norm Parker, who has been around enough (40 years in the college game) to know. "There aren't that many new plays."

Parker is correct that the spread isn't too revolutionary. What it does, however, is force the defense to play 11-on-11 football, thanks to the full involvement of the quarterback. "In a generic offense, you don't have to worry

about the quarterback," UCLA defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker says. Instead of handing off and carrying out his fakes, the QB can now run wide, hit it up the middle or throw, all out of the same formation and (often) the same look. Unlike the old option offenses, the spread operates from sideline-to-sideline, rather than bunched together. And unlike the wishbone or veer, the QB is often a potent throwing weapon. Just ask teams that tried to defend Florida and Tim Tebow last year. "When an offense has a guy who can throw and run, you've got something going on," Texas defensive backs coach Duane Akina says. "Offenses are trying to work toward that hybrid." And when a team finds that player? "You have Superman," Parker says. Or Dennis Dixon of Oregon.

Even the linemen in the spread are different from the usual big fellas. You don't find too many 6'7", 330-pounders in that offense, because they must move quickly and hold their blocks a little longer in the zone play. "They're more athletic," East Carolina defensive coordinator Greg Hudson says. "It's like they're playing with five centers and guards."

As they search for the right personnel, offensive coaches continue to feed the monster. Each year new plays are added. Blocking schemes evolve. Tempos are varied. Wrinkles emerge. Although Ole Miss defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix predicts, "I would assume everybody will catch up with the spread," it hasn't happened yet. Because of the many hybrids of the thing, it is difficult to find a set method of stopping it. The wishbone died when Miami introduced speed at every defensive position and prevented Oklahoma backs from shaking loose on the option pitch. Since no one has found that default solution, the chase continues.

Stay the Course There may be a thousand tactics that can be employed to control the spread, but there is an overriding principle. "If you change your basic defensive philosophy, you will make mistakes and play slower," Hudson says. "You need to eliminate missed assignments and play as fast as you can."

Hudson's peers agree with his assessment. "When you make radical changes, guys don't know what they're doing," Parker says. Teams

that try to put in a special “spread package” for one or two opponents a season will end up struggling, if not getting embarrassed. Asking players to work within one set of precepts for months and then switch to something completely different often invites disaster. Not that playing a passive defense is the answer. Teams must play to their strengths and be aggressive.

“You have to figure out how you match up,” Purdue’s Spack says. “Do you want to play the whole game in a nickel package? Do you want to go with five defensive backs and four down linemen? Or four linemen and three linebackers? You have to make your decisions based on your personnel.”

Once teams make those choices, it’s up to the players to execute. They must be disciplined in carrying out their assignments even more so than in regular defensive situations.



FORMER OREGON QB DENNIS DIXON

One mistake can lead to a big-play disaster. So, Mr. Linebacker, if you have the quarterback, stay with the quarterback, even if the running back looks like he’s going around the end all alone. “It’s about all 11 guys understanding they have to do their particular assignment and trust their teammates,” Nix says.

Once everybody understands that, the defense can take over the game. Spread teams want to dictate tempo. They want to manipulate formations to create advantages. They’re looking to force the defense to adapt to them, sure death for any team trying to stop the spread. So, defenses have to attack. “You have to dictate to them,” Walker says. “You have to bait them. If you take X away, they’ll do Y. You need someone there to stop that.”

Middle Earth Even though spread offenses want to engage the whole field, the battle for control of the game begins in the middle of the line. The A gaps — the areas between the

center and the guards — are vital to any defense’s ability to succeed. “We’re going to stop those gaps,” Hudson promises.

Nix agrees. “You’re only as good as how you are against the A and B gaps (between the guards and tackles),” he says. “You’d rather them beat you outside.”

Most teams still prefer their tackles to be of the Hungry Man variety. But quickness is now as important as bulk. Because many spread teams work quickly, it’s hard for defenses to use multiple packages and substitute liberally. That means the guys inside had better be more than drainplugs — and devote some time to conditioning. “If you’re going to leave those guys on the field to take care of the run, they had better be able to move,” Walker says.

The spread may be like the wishbone, but it

“When an offense has a guy who can throw and run, you’ve got something going on. Offenses are trying to work toward that hybrid. And when a team finds that player? You have Superman.”

— Texas defensive backs coach Duane Akina

doesn’t have a fullback dive option from inside a tight formation, so many might wonder why there is a need for interior strength. One reason is to keep blockers away from the linebackers and ends, the ones heading toward the sidelines to stop the QB or pitch man. But the spread does employ a mid-line maneuver off the zone read. Sometimes, instead of heading outside after faking to the back, the quarterback will cut up inside. The thinking is that if a backer sees that zone read action and heads wide to cut things off, there will be an exposed seam. This goes back to assignment football, but it also requires a hefty presence in the middle to shuck the blocking back and stop the QB from shaking loose up the middle.

“Most offensive plays are based on what front a defense presents,” BYU head coach Bronco Mendenhall says. “If you have the center covered, and the offense has to use a guard as well to block a defensive tackle, you have gained a one-man advantage.”

In addition to making the right personnel decisions, coordinators need to keep their offensive counterparts guessing up front. Deploying linemen the same way every time is asking for an afternoon of jailbreaks, because a quarterback will become comfortable and

be able to make audible calls and reads that lead to big plays. A package of stunts, slants, twists and shades is necessary to prevent offenses from becoming too comfortable with their reads. “You have to be crafty with your stunts,” Spack says.

Living On The Edge Since defensive coordinators insist they would rather deal with the spread on the perimeter, they must have people out there capable of making plays. Quicker, leaner players become a necessity, in order to track down runners and defend the pass, all in open space. Iowa’s Parker jokes that “what you really want is a 240-pounder who’s mobile,” but those can’t be found too readily — except on Sundays. So, teams look to hybrids. “We’re getting away from the traditional, 240-pound linebackers,” Akina says,



FLORIDA QB TIM TEBOW

who worries that the bigger LBs aren’t as fast. “You’re not seeing teams line up in the I formation and run ‘iso’ at you. Even the Big Ten is getting into spread offenses now.”

The thinking is pretty straightforward. Since offenses are trying to be quick with no-huddle schemes, option plays designed to work toward the sideline and quick-hitting passes that emphasize the ability to break a tackle in one-on-one situations, defenders have to be more versatile and agile. Ends and linebackers even find themselves in pass-coverage roles. And they have to stay on the field for all three downs, because hurry-up offenses don’t allow for substitutions. They’re trying to tire out the defenders, who have to respond by working more on conditioning than ever before. Still, coordinators want to make some personnel changes. “Sometimes, the only way to substitute is for one of your players to do the dead-man flop,” Hudson says, and he’s not joking.

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South Florida looks for lighter, more mobile players, even along the defensive front. But that can backfire. Although the Bulls have beaten West Virginia the past two years, they have lost twice to Rutgers, primarily because the Scarlet Knights overwhelmed USF with power football. So, defenses don't want track stars. Players must move, but they have to hit, too. And their main target is the quarterback. Hitting the man under center has always been a part of football, but controlling the spread, which makes the QB a runner and a passer, is based partly on wearing down the man with the ball in his hands. West Virginia's title hopes were derailed last year when White was injured early in the season-ending loss to Pittsburgh. And once Dixon tore his ACL, Oregon's run was finished. The Ducks even went to a more conventional attack in their bowl win over South Florida. According to Hudson, teams are "picking their poison" by converting quarterbacks into runners, because they are making them more vulnerable to hits than usual. Defensive coaches like that.

"We don't try to do anything outside of the rules," Mendenhall says. "But what we do emphasize is that when we have a chance, we make the most of it. That gives us the best chance to win."

"You need to eliminate missed assignments and play as fast as you can."

— East Carolina defensive coordinator Greg Hudson

No Passing Zone When Heisman voters considered Tebow's candidacy last year, they looked past his relative youth and concentrated instead on one remarkable statistic: The sophomore QB had accounted for 70.4 percent (895 rushing yards, 3,286 passing yards) of the team's total offense. Hello, Mr. Stiff Arm.

Since dual-threats as good as Tebow are rare commodities, defenses don't have to worry too much about controlling a full-fledged spread ground attack and overwhelming aerial assault. Because pure running quarterbacks are not often adept at operating a sophisticated passing scheme, teams that face them don't have to prepare complicated coverage schemes.

Texas Tech's Graham Harrell, however, is a different story. The senior threw for 5,705 yards and 48 touchdowns last year, and the Red Raiders averaged 58.7 passes per game. Not only does Tech stress teams with constant four- and five-receiver sets, but their linemen also take huge splits, further opening up defenses. "The philosophy behind the offense is to spread the field and attack where you have the leverage," Harrell says. "You don't worry about coverage ... you go where they're not."

When faced with attacks like that, Mendenhall preaches patience. He doesn't worry about yards gained between the 35-yard lines. And he's not always upset about completions on first or second downs. When it's 3rd-and-long, however, look out. "We want to be more creative in those positions," he says. But many of Mendenhall's peers aren't so generous. They preach pressure. "You have to mix in pressure packages and get to the quarterback," Hudson says. Walker agrees. UCLA had trouble with Utah's and Arizona's spread attacks in losses last year. "We should have pressured them more rather than just playing coverage," Walker says. "I talked with (Steelers' defensive coordinator) Dick LeBeau, and he said the more teams open you up, the more you need to pressure them and get the ball out of their hands quickly."

Different coverage schemes are important, too. When he was at New Mexico as defensive coordinator, Mendenhall spread five defensive backs across the field against Utah and other spread teams. The goal was to provide a vanilla look that prevented quarterbacks from making pre-snap adjustments and good reads after it. Akina uses the free safety as "bonus player," asking him to read the offensive players. If the linemen stand up to pass block, he heads deep to cover the pass. If it's a run, he has to close quickly. The risk, of course, is an incorrect read.

In the end, it's about preparation. Teams must practice against the spread, although within the framework of their everyday schemes. They must be disciplined and tackle surely in the open field. They must be versatile and try to dictate tempo. Even with all of that, coaches still need some help. So, they go see Burnham. This year, however, he'll be on the road, too. "We play Kansas, and they're a good spread offensive football team," Burnham says. "I've got to go visit some people and get some tape. We've gotta have some kind of idea what they're doing." Or there could be trouble.



GREATS OF THE GRIDIRON



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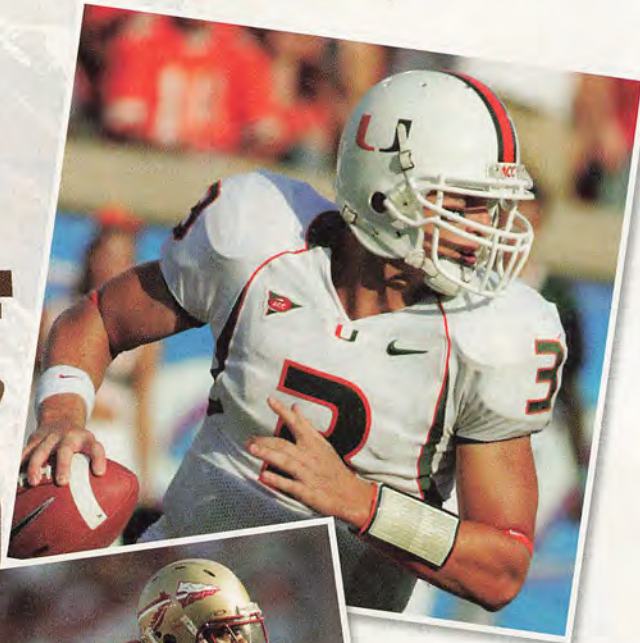
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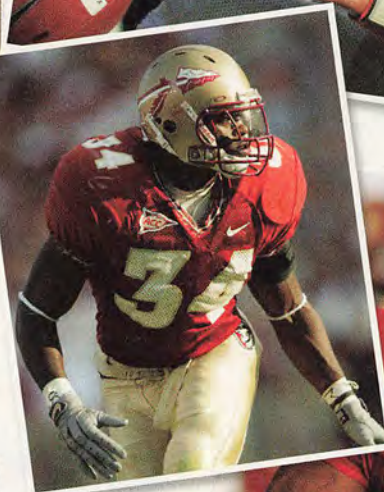
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ATHLON SPORTS'...

TOP 40 RECRUITS OF 2003



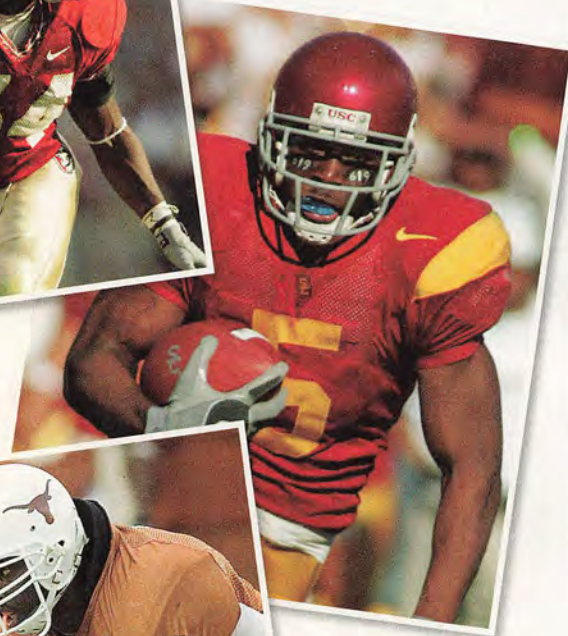
1. KYLE WRIGHT QB • DANVILLE, CA • MIAMI

Expected to be the next great quarterback at Miami, but his career has to be considered a big disappointment. Went 18–11 as a starter, including a 4–4 mark as a senior in 2007, when Miami struggled through a 5–7 record. Ranks No. 7 on the Hurricanes' all-time passing yardage list with 5,835 yards and No. 5 on the completion percentage list at 59.0. Ended his career with 38 touchdowns and 31 interceptions. Best season was as a sophomore in 2005, when he earned honorable mention All-ACC honors after ranking second in the ACC in passing efficiency and first in touchdown passes (18).



2. ERNIE SIMS LB • TALLAHASSEE, FL • FLORIDA STATE

Started his final 24 games at Florida State and was named second-team All-ACC as a sophomore in 2004 and honorable mention as a junior in '05. Despite being overlooked by the league as a junior, he was named one of 10 semifinalists for the Butkus Award in 2005. Finished his career with 200 tackles, 7.0 sacks and 21 tackles for a loss. Declared for the draft after his junior season and was selected by the Detroit Lions with the No. 9 overall pick.



3. REGGIE BUSH RB • SPRING VALLEY, CA • USC

Ended his three-year career at USC as one of the most decorated college football players of all time. Won the Heisman Trophy as a junior in 2005 after leading the nation with 2,890 all-purpose yards (a Pac-10 record), including 1,740 yards rushing (on a Pac-10 record 8.7-yard average) and 16 touchdowns. Ended his career ranked No. 7 on the Trojans' all-time rushing list with 3,169 yards; his 7.32 yards-per-carry average is a yard-and-a-half better than any of the other top 30 career rushing leaders at USC. Left school with a year of eligibility remaining and was drafted by New Orleans with the No. 2 overall pick.

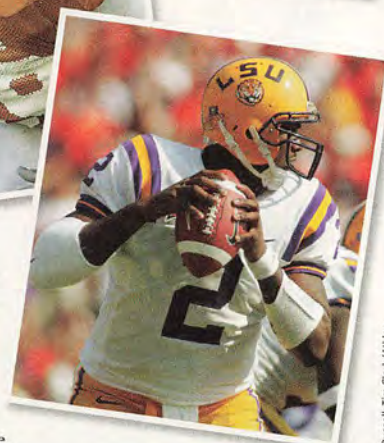


4. TONY HILLS JR. TE • HOUSTON, TX • TEXAS

Suffered a serious knee injury as a senior in high school; did not enroll at Texas until the spring of 2004. Switched to the offensive line after arriving in Austin. Played in 18 games over his first two seasons before earning a starting spot as a junior in 2006. Started the first 10 games of the 2007 season but broke his left leg against Texas Tech, sidelining him for the regular-season finale against Texas A&M and the bowl game. Named first team All-Big 12 in 2007. Selected by Pittsburgh in the fourth round of the 2008 draft.

5. JAMARCUS RUSSELL QB • MOBILE, AL • LSU

Guided LSU to a 25–4 record in his 29 career starts in Baton Rouge. Named first-team All-SEC as a fourth-year junior in 2006, when he led the Tigers to an SEC title and a Sugar Bowl win over Notre Dame. Set a school single-season record by completing 67.8 percent of his passes in '06, and tied a single-season record by throwing 28 touchdown passes. Ended his career third on the Tigers' all-time passing list with 6,625 yards. Was selected by Oakland with the top pick in the 2007 Draft, joining the legendary Billy Cannon as the only LSU Tigers ever to be taken No. 1 overall.



Wright: Allen Kees/Sims, Russell: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Bush: Peter Brouillet; Hills: Texas STD

6. WHITNEY LEWIS

WR • OXNARD, CA • USC

Did not catch a pass in his two seasons with the Trojans. Lettered in 2003 as a true freshman, sat out the '04 season after being ruled academically ineligible and returned in '05 as a reserve receiver. Transferred to Division I-AA power Northern Iowa, where he played running back in 2006 (two starts, 360 yards rushing) and receiver in '07 (26 receptions for 218 yards).

7. PRESCOTT BURGESS

DB • WARREN, OH • MICHIGAN

Enjoyed a solid four-year career with the Wolverines — who moved him to linebacker — but never earned first- or second-team All-Big Ten honors. Two-year starter ended his career with 171 tackles and four sacks. Selected by Baltimore in the sixth round of the 2007 NFL Draft.

8. NATE ROBINSON

DL • IRVINGTON, NJ • MIAMI

After failing to meet entrance requirements at Miami, Robinson signed with Rutgers. He was limited to six games as a true freshman due to a knee injury. Played in eight of 11 games as a reserve in 2004 but was kicked off the team in the spring for a violation of team rules. Transferred to Akron. After playing in 11 games as a reserve in 2006, he started six games for the Zips as a senior in 2007, recording 26 tackles, including two sacks.

9. LAMARR WOODLEY

LB • SAGINAW, MI • MICHIGAN

Recruited as a linebacker and transitioned into a hybrid defensive end/outside linebacker. Capped off his career with an outstanding senior season in 2006, earning Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year honors and being named as the Lombardi Award winner. Tied a single-season school record with 12 sacks as a senior, and his 24 career sacks are tied for third on the Wolverines' all-time list. Holds the school record with 10 career forced fumbles. Selected by the Steelers in the second round of the 2007 draft as an outside linebacker in their 3-4 defensive alignment.

10. ANTONIO CROMARTIE

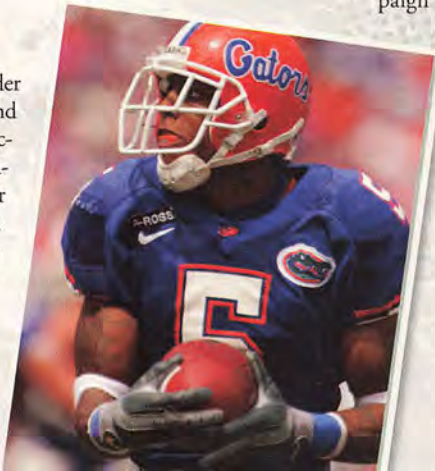
DB • TALLAHASSEE, FL • FLORIDA STATE

Only played two seasons at Florida State but made a significant impact as a big-play cornerback. Earned first-team All-ACC honors as a sophomore in 2004, but his career at FSU ended in July 2005 when he tore the ACL in his left knee during involuntary workouts on campus. He sat out the entire 2005 season (while still enrolled at FSU), then declared early for the NFL Draft. He was selected by San Diego with the No. 19 pick in the first round.

11. ANDRE CALDWELL

WR • TAMPA, FL • FLORIDA

Finished his career as the Gators' all-time leader in receptions with 185 — for 2,349 yards and 16 touchdowns — but never made first- or second-team All-SEC. Was granted a medical redshirt in 2005 (his true junior season) after breaking his leg on a special teams play in Week 3. Came back to catch 113 passes for 1,338 yards and 13 touchdowns over his final two seasons. Played a key role for 2006 national champions. Selected by Cincinnati in the third round of the 2008 draft.



12. ERIC YOUNG

OL • UNION, SC • TENNESSEE

Two-year starter spent his junior season as the right tackle before switching over to left tackle as a fifth-year senior in 2007. Started the first eight games in '07 before suffering a season-ending injury to his left quad muscle. Named second-team All-SEC by the Associated Press as a senior despite missing six games. Was not selected in the 2008 draft.

13. MIKE JONES

OL • OAK LAWN, IL • IOWA

Three-year starter spent time at left guard and both tackle spots. Earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors as a sophomore and first-team honors as a senior. Started at three different spots on the line in 2005 — two games at left tackle, two at right tackle and eight at left guard. Was not selected in the 2007 draft. Signed a futures contract with the Chicago Bears in December 2007.

14. JORRIE ADAMS

OL • JASPER, TX • TEXAS A&M

Switched to tight end upon his arrival to Texas A&M. Sat out the 2003 season as a redshirt, then moved across the line to defensive tackle in the spring of 2004. Played in every game in '04 as a redshirt freshman, recording 22 tackles. Was dismissed from the team in June 2005 for a violation of team rules. Sat out two full years before enrolling — as a sophomore — at Division II Angelo State in August 2007. Played on the offensive line for the Rams and earned honorable mention honors from the Lone Star Conference South Division. Still has two years of eligibility remaining.

15. DONTÉ WHITNER

DB • CLEVELAND, OH • OHIO STATE

Two-year starter at safety emerged as one of the elite defensive backs in the nation as a junior. One of eight Buckeyes to earn first-team All-Big Ten honors in 2005 and one of three to be named first-team All-American. Declared for the draft after his junior season and was selected by Buffalo with the eighth pick in the first round. Earned first-team All-America honors in 2005.

16. LAWRENCE "MOE" DAMPEER

DL • DECATUR, IL • OKLAHOMA

Sat out the 2003 season as a redshirt and lettered during the '04 campaign as a reserve defensive tackle. Transferred to Joliet (Ill.) Junior College in 2005 but broke his foot after playing in only one game. Promptly dropped out of school and returned home to Decatur. He attended Division II Lane College in the spring 2008 semester, hoping to become eligible for the fall. If he is successful, he will have two years of eligibility at Lane.



17. GREG OLSEN

TE • WAYNE, NJ • NOTRE DAME

Signed with Notre Dame to play with his older brother Christian, a quarterback. Both Olsens, however, left the team one day before classes began in the fall of 2003. Since Greg never enrolled, he was eligible to play immediately at another Division I-A school. He picked Miami but still sat out the '03 season as a redshirt, due in part to a shoulder injury. (Christian transferred to Virginia, spending most of his three years in Charlottesville as a reserve). Greg started 12 games in each of his final two seasons at Miami, earning first-team All-ACC honors as a junior in 2006. In three seasons, he caught 87 passes for 1,215 yards and six touchdowns. Left school with one year of eligibility remaining and was selected by Chicago with the 31st pick of the first round in the 2007 NFL Draft.

18. EARL EVERETT

LB • WEBSTER, FL • FLORIDA

Played his way into the rotation as a true freshman in 2003. Started 42 games in his career, including 36 over his final three seasons. Earned second-team All-SEC honors by the coaches in 2004 and first-team honors in 2006. Finished his career with 271 tackles, including 85 during his senior season when the Gators won the national championship. Signed with Cincinnati as an undrafted free agent. Currently on the Falcons' practice squad.

19. CHRIS LEAK

QB • CHARLOTTE, NC • FLORIDA

Emerg ed as the starter in Week 5 of his freshman season and went on to start the final 47 games of his career. Was named SEC Freshman of the Year in 2003 and earned second-team All-SEC in honors as a sophomore, junior and senior. Holds school records for career attempts (1,458), career completions (895) and career yardage (11,213). Capped off his career by leading the Gators to the 2006 National Championship. Signed a free agent contract with the Chicago Bears in April 2007 but failed to make the team. In November 2007, Leak signed with Team Florida of the new, six-team All American Football League, which was scheduled to begin play in the spring of 2009.

20. OFA MOHETAU

OL • EULESS, TX • BYU

Started eight games as a true freshman at BYU in 2003 but sat out the 2004 season as a medical redshirt. Transferred to the College of the Sequoias in January 2005 and played one season for the Giants. Was highly recruited coming out of junior college and signed with Texas Tech in February 2006. Started two games for the Red Raiders as a junior in '06 but left the team prior to the Insight Bowl. Did not play football in 2007.

21. TARELL BROWN

DB • MESQUITE, TX • TEXAS

Started three seasons at cornerback but failed to earn any postseason honors from the Big 12 (not even honorable mention). Recorded a career-high 10 tackles with two pass breakups in the Horns' 41-38 win over USC in the 2005 national title game. Made headlines early in his senior season when he was suspended for Texas' epic showdown with Ohio State in Austin after facing misdemeanor drug and weapons charges. Selected in the fifth round of the 2007 draft by Buffalo.



22. WESLEY JEFFERSON

LB • CLINTON, MD • MARYLAND

Served as a key reserve in 2004 as a redshirt freshman and '05 as a sophomore before moving into the starting lineup as a fourth-year junior. Recorded 110 tackles and a team-high 10 for a loss while starting 13 games in 2006. Was expected to be a cornerstone of the Maryland defense in 2007 but decided not to return for his fifth season so he could pursue a career in law enforcement.

23. CHAD JACKSON

WR • HOOVER, AL • FLORIDA

Started 14 games during his three years at Florida. During his final season in Gainesville, in 2005, he caught 88 passes for 900 yards and nine touchdowns, earning first-team All-SEC honors by the AP and second-team honors from the league's coaches. Was also a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award in 2005. Final numbers at Florida: 120 catches for 1,586 yards and 16 TDs. Left school with a season of eligibility remaining and was selected in the second round by the Patriots.



24. KREGG LUMPKIN

RB • LITHONIA, GA • GEORGIA

Battled injuries throughout much of his five years in Athens. Emerg ed as a key part of the Dawgs' offense as a true freshman, rushing for 523 yards on 112 carries in 2003. Missed the '04 campaign after tearing his ACL in preseason camp. Returned to rush for 335 yards as a sophomore in 2005 and a team-high 798 yards as a junior. Had carries in only four games as a senior due to a thumb and knee injury. Finished his career with 1,700 yards rushing.

25. MICHAEL BUSH

QB • LOUISVILLE, KY • LOUISVILLE

Switched to running back upon his arrival at Louisville. Played a key role in the Cardinals' emergence as a national power under then-coach Bobby Petrino. In his one season as the primary ball-carrier, the 6'3", 247-pound tailback powered his way a Big East-best 1,143 yards and a school single-season record 23 rushing touchdowns. He earned first-team All-Big East honors as a junior and was mentioned on several preseason All-America teams heading into his senior season. In the 2006 opener, he rushed for 128 yards and three touchdowns in a 59-28 win over rival Kentucky. But he also suffered a broken right tibia against the Wildcats in what ended up being the final game of his collegiate career. Bush could have returned to Louisville for a fifth year but opted to enter the NFL Draft despite having played only one game in 2006. He was picked by the Raiders in the fourth round.

26. BRANDON OWENS

DB • DELRAY BEACH, FL • MINNESOTA

After spending his first two seasons as a reserve, Owens broke into the starting lineup at strong safety as a junior in 2005. He recorded 27 tackles through the first four-plus games before sustaining a career-ending neck and shoulder injury against Penn State.

27. DEMETRICE WEBB

DB • JACKSONVILLE, FL • FLORIDA

Two-year starter was named first-team All-SEC by the AP and second-team by the league's coaches in 2005 as a junior. Left school with one season of eligibility remaining and was selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the seventh round of the 2006 draft.



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28. JORDY LIPSEY

OL • LONGWOOD, FL • VIRGINIA

After redshirting his first season in Charlottesville, Lipsey served as the No. 2 center in 2004 and '05. Started two games in 2005, filling in for the injured Brian Barthelmes. Moved into the lineup for good as a fourth-year junior in 2006 and started the final 25 games of his career. Did not receive any all-conference mention either year as a starter.

29. XAVIER LAWSON-KENNEDY

DL • DUNCANVILLE, TX • OKLAHOMA STATE

The banner recruit during Les Miles' four-year stay in Stillwater, Lawson-Kennedy never lived up to the hype. He started a total of six games during his injury-plagued four years at O-State, all during his junior season. Trimmed down from 380 to 320 pounds in the months following his senior season in an effort to get in shape for the NFL Draft. Didn't work. Lawson-Kennedy went undrafted and failed to stick with a team as a free agent.

30. ROBERT LANE

QB • MONROE, LA • OLE MISS

Originally committed to LSU but switched his allegiance to Ole Miss after the Tigers secured a commitment from the higher-rated JaMarcus Russell. Spent the majority of his first three years at Ole Miss as a backup quarterback before being moved to tight end on a permanent basis as a fourth-year junior in 2006. Prior to the move, he started one game at quarterback, a 24-14 loss to Wyoming in Oxford. Started eight games as a junior (four at tight end, two at fullback and two at H-Back) and caught 11 passes for 155 yards. Started 11 of 12 games as a senior (all at tight end) and caught 19 passes for 149 yards.

31. STEVE SMITH

WR • CANOGA PARK, CA • USC

Enjoyed a highly successful four-year run at USC. Finished his career ranked fourth all-time in receiving yards (3,019) and fifth in receptions (190) and touchdown catches (22). Earned first-team All-Pac-10 honors as a senior, when he led the team with 71 catches for 1,083 yards. USC went 48-4 in his four years and won two national titles, in 2003 (AP) and '05 (AP, BCS). Selected by the New York Giants in the second round of the 2007 NFL Draft.

32. ROBERT MEACHEM

WR • TULSA, OK • TENNESSEE

Posted rather ordinary numbers until he broke out with a sensational 2006 season as a fourth-year junior when he caught 71 passes and set a Tennessee single-season record with 1,298 yards receiving. He earned first-team All-SEC honors and third-team All-America honors from the Associated Press. Ended his career sixth all-time at Tennessee with 125 catches and fourth all-time with 2,140 yards (for a 17.1-yard average). Left Tennessee with one year of eligibility remaining and was drafted by the Saints in the first round.

33. LAWRENCE JACKSON

DL • INGLEWOOD, CA • USC

Highly decorated four-year starter at defensive end was a two-time first-team All-Pac-10 pick (2005, '07) and second-team AP All-American in 2007. Ended his career with 52 tackles for a loss, including 30.5 sacks. USC went 48-5 during his career with four Pac-10 titles and one national title. Selected by Seattle in the first-round of the 2008 NFL Draft.

34. JARVIS MOSS

DL • DENTON, TX • FLORIDA

Broke into the rotation as a sophomore in 2005 and finished fifth in the SEC with 7.5 sacks despite not starting a game. Started 13 games at end in 2006 for the national champion Gators, recording 56 tackles, including 7.5 sacks. Did not receive any postseason accolades from the SEC. Left school with one year of eligibility remaining and was selected by Denver in the first round of the 2007 draft.

35. PAUL OLIVER

DB • KENNESAW, GA • GEORGIA

Emerging as a full-time starter at cornerback as a fourth-year junior in 2006, recording 57 tackles and intercepting three passes. Would have been one of the top corners in the SEC last fall but was declared academically ineligible. Oliver entered the NFL Supplemental Draft and was taken in the fourth round by the Chargers.

36. SEAN BAILEY

WR • ALPHARETTA, GA • GEORGIA

Finished off a relatively disappointing career with a solid senior season in 2007, catching a team-high 39 passes for 615 yards and five touchdowns. Returned to action after missing the entire 2006 season with a knee injury. Ended his career with 75 catches for 1,269 yards and 12 touchdowns in 46 games (25 starts).

37. MARIO WILLIAMS

DL • RICHLANDS, NC • NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Starter at end from the first game of his true freshman season. Set a single-season school record with 27.5 tackles for a loss and 14.5 sacks in 2005. His sack total led the ACC and ranked fourth nationally. Earned first-team All-ACC honors in 2004 and '05. Declared for the NFL Draft after his junior season and became the first ACC player ever to be selected No. 1 overall when the Houston Texans bypassed USC's Reggie Bush and Texas' Vince Young (a Houston native) to take Williams.

38. TURK MCBRIDE

DL • CAMDEN, NJ • TENNESSEE

Saw action at both defensive end and tackle during his four-year career. Started all 13 games as a senior in 2006. Made two starts at end and 11 at tackle in 2006 en route to earning first-team All-SEC honors from the Associated Press. Recorded 68 tackles, including 8.5 for a loss in '06. Selected in the second round of the 2006 NFL Draft by the Chiefs.

39. TYRONE MOSS

RB • POMPANO BEACH, FL • MIAMI

Once-promising career was derailed by injuries. Emerged as the primary ball-carrier as a junior in 2005 and rushed for 701 yards through seven-plus games before tearing his ACL in Week 8. Still earned first-team All-ACC honors despite playing only two-thirds of the season. His senior season was cut short by injuries and suspensions, and he rushed for only 285 yards on 66 carries in eight games. Had a look with the Browns as an undrafted free agent but was cut in May 2007.

40. TONY CADE

DB • LEWISVILLE, TX • OKLAHOMA

Played in 11 games for the Sooners in 2004, primarily on special teams. Left OU in August 2005 and enrolled at City College of San Francisco and played one season for the Rams. Transferred to UNLV and started four games at safety as a junior in 2006 and eight games in '07.





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SEC



The purple-and-gold pockets of fans throughout the Superdome began to serenade LSU players with an emphatic chant in the final minutes of the Tigers' resounding victory over Ohio State in last year's national championship:

"SEC! SEC! SEC!"

The act was as much a salute to a preeminent conference as it was an indictment of another. Even before the game's end, message-board addicts and college football analysts nationwide began treating the Big Ten as the sport's piñata. If Ohio State were to reach a third straight national title game in 2008, fans crowed, they'd be best served staying home. One newspaper headline simply read: "Big (Rot) Ten," poking fun at consecutive losses in the national championship by one Big Ten school.

Aside from national championship debates, no argument in college football has grown more vociferous and fierce than the annual debate over conference supremacy. Throughout all seasons of the year, fans in various nooks of the country pound their chests about their favorite conference, while coaches accentuate the positives of even middling leagues. Results of bowl games and out-of-conference performances are used to bolster a conference's reputation, even though no universal tool exists to distinguish one league from another.

"It is so regionalized," says Texas coach Mack Brown. "Wherever you are, you think that is the best league. Wherever you went to school, you want your school to be the best school in the best league. Now with the BCS, you get more credibility if you win it all. That's not going to change, and it is healthy."

But the dizzying 2007 season, in which teams ranked among the nation's top 5 lost to unranked opponents 13 times, concluded with a distinctively southern feel: LSU and Georgia finished No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in the Associated Press poll. And in the view of some coaches, the pertinent question entering this fall is not about which conference is strongest, but rather about the size of the gap between the SEC and everyone else. "It is hard for the voters and the skeptics to think there are that many good teams in one league," says Kentucky coach Rich Brooks. "Last year, our second- and third-place teams were as good as some of the championship teams in other BCS conferences."

The pendulum of conference dominance swings from one league to another every few years, but even some non-SEC coaches acknowledge that the SEC holds at least a slight edge. "I'm being as brutally honest as I can be," says Purdue coach Joe Tiller, who painted this scenario: If Purdue's team included 90 percent of players from Indiana, he says, the Boilermakers might have a winning record. If Georgia's team included 90 percent of players from the state of Georgia, Tiller says, the Bulldogs might win the national championship. "There are fine football players in Indiana — don't get me wrong," says Tiller,

defending his gridiron turf. "But there is spring football in the South; we have AAU basketball. We produce basketball players; they produce football players."

Frustrated?

"Can you tell?" Tiller says. "And I haven't even used any four-letter words."

For another coach, if you can't beat 'em, rip 'em. One prominent head coach in the Midwest who asked not to be identified in this story said: "If you want to say one conference (is best), you would have to say the SEC. But I'm not sure if they want to compare graduation rates."

Leaving academic records aside, the SEC's résumé is sterling. Five coaches — LSU's Les Miles, Florida's Urban Meyer, Alabama's Nick Saban, Tennessee's Phil Fulmer and South Carolina's Steve Spurrier — have won national championships. SEC schools have won four of the past 10 national titles, including the last two (LSU and Florida).

In the view of some, the SEC last season was almost too strong for its own good. No team emerged with fewer than two conference losses. Nine SEC teams were ranked at some point during the season. During a 16-day stretch, Kentucky played three schools — South Carolina, LSU and Florida — that were then ranked among the top 14.

"In the old days, you had certain teams you knew were going to be strong, and the rest of the teams were just so-so," says Woody McCorvey, Mississippi State's assistant head coach who has coached in the SEC since 1990. "Now that is not the case. You have guys every Saturday you have to worry about from



"It is so regionalized. Wherever you are, you think that is the best league. Wherever you went to school, you want your school to be the best school in the best league."

— Texas coach Mack Brown

an offensive standpoint, a defensive standpoint and even some kickers."

Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson does not know if the top-tier programs have gotten stronger, but says the middle- and lower-ranked programs have improved and "some roles have changed a little bit."

The league lost offensive standouts such as Arkansas running back Darren McFadden and Kentucky quarterback Andre Woodson but retained Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Tim Tebow of Florida and Georgia running back Knowshon Moreno, who could enter the Heisman discussion. No shortage of athletes, as if there ever is.

In that vein, Colorado coach Dan Hawkins recalls his first game at Boise State in 2001 against South Carolina: "Lou Holtz says, 'Your guys can really roll their hips coming off the ball.' I said, 'Yeah, but look at the hips on your guys compared to the hips on

our guys.' They had some big guys up there. It is speed but also the size, strength and athleticism quotient as well."

Some in the SEC boast of a speed advantage over other schools. Oregon State coach Mike Riley, citing his experience in college and as an NFL head coach, says the disparity in speed is usually legitimate. When the Beavers played at LSU in 2004, "I said, 'Thank God it rained before the game, maybe it slows them down some.' The athleticism in that conference can be unreal."

While acknowledging that the SEC perennially produces great athletes and teams, Texas' Brown says: "To say there is a disparity in speed between SEC teams and the other great teams in America would be wrong. USC is as fast as anybody. We feel like we have great speed at Texas. You look at Oklahoma, around the country, and there has been a fallacy that the South is always faster than the North for many, many years."

The perceived speed advantage was trumpeted before the last two national title games. Kentucky's Brooks believes one or two teams in each of the other BCS leagues have defenses with as much speed and physicality that eight or nine SEC teams possess, and that it was evident in the last two national title games. "Ohio State was a very productive, high-scoring team, and they could not block Florida's front," Brooks says. "This year, they couldn't block LSU's front. It's a very difficult thing to match up with when you don't see it on a week-to-week basis."

As a result, Ohio State's results in the past two national title games — losing two games by a combined score of 79–38 — have been used as evidence of the Big Ten's inferiority. The Buckeyes are 0–9 all-time against SEC teams in bowl games.

Purdue's Tiller believes Ohio State held its own against LSU but says the Buckeyes did get "man-handled by Florida, which was a little better prepared, hungrier and they had great talent. They might have been one of the better SEC teams of all time."

Tiller also suggests that some Big Ten schools were at a geographical disadvantage last bowl season. USC blasted Illinois, 49–17, in the Rose Bowl. LSU scored 31 straight points against Ohio State in New Orleans. Michigan travelled to Orlando to beat Florida in the Capital One Bowl, and Penn State beat Texas A&M in the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio. "That is never pointed out or it is a small asterisk," Tiller says.

Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz cautions fans about making conference-wide generalizations, suggesting it is unfair to criticize a team that reached back-to-back national championship games. "I look at the Buffalo Bills and the Minnesota Vikings," two NFL teams that each lost four Super Bowls, Ferentz says. "You wouldn't mind being there. There are a lot worse places to be in life" than reaching consecutive BCS title games.

Ferentz also recalls a sky-is-falling tenor that existed at the Big Ten meetings before the 2002 sea-

son. By season's end, three teams — Ohio State, Iowa and Michigan — were ranked in the top 10 and Ohio State had won the national championship. Perceptions can change fast.

If there is a league that can challenge the SEC this season, it is the Big 12. Texas Tech coach Mike Leach believes the debate over strongest conference is between the Big 12 and the SEC, adding that the strongest single division in college football is the Big 12 South, which could have three national contenders this fall with Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech. In recent years, the biggest criticism of the Big 12 concerned the perceived lack of strength in the North Division, but the rise of Missouri and Kansas last season helped quiet critics, at least for a season. "A couple years ago," Hawkins says, "they wanted to run Gary (Pinkel at Missouri) and Mark (Mangino at Kansas) out and now look at them."

One offensive coordinator with Pac-10 ties says the SEC is slightly superior to the ACC and Pac-10 in terms of speed and athleticism and that, in the Big 12, there is a drop-off in athleticism after the top four teams, adding that the Big 12 is "coached well. Those kids are hard, tough kids. The whole conference is full of Texas kids who have been playing football since they were little and coached well and extremely hard — very well-coached, hard, tough and blue-collar."

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops believes the entire league could be stronger largely because of the return of 11 of 12 quarterbacks. As many as five quarterbacks — Oklahoma's Sam Bradford, Texas's Colt McCoy, Missouri's Chase Daniel, Texas Tech's Gra-

CONFERENCE SUPREMACY



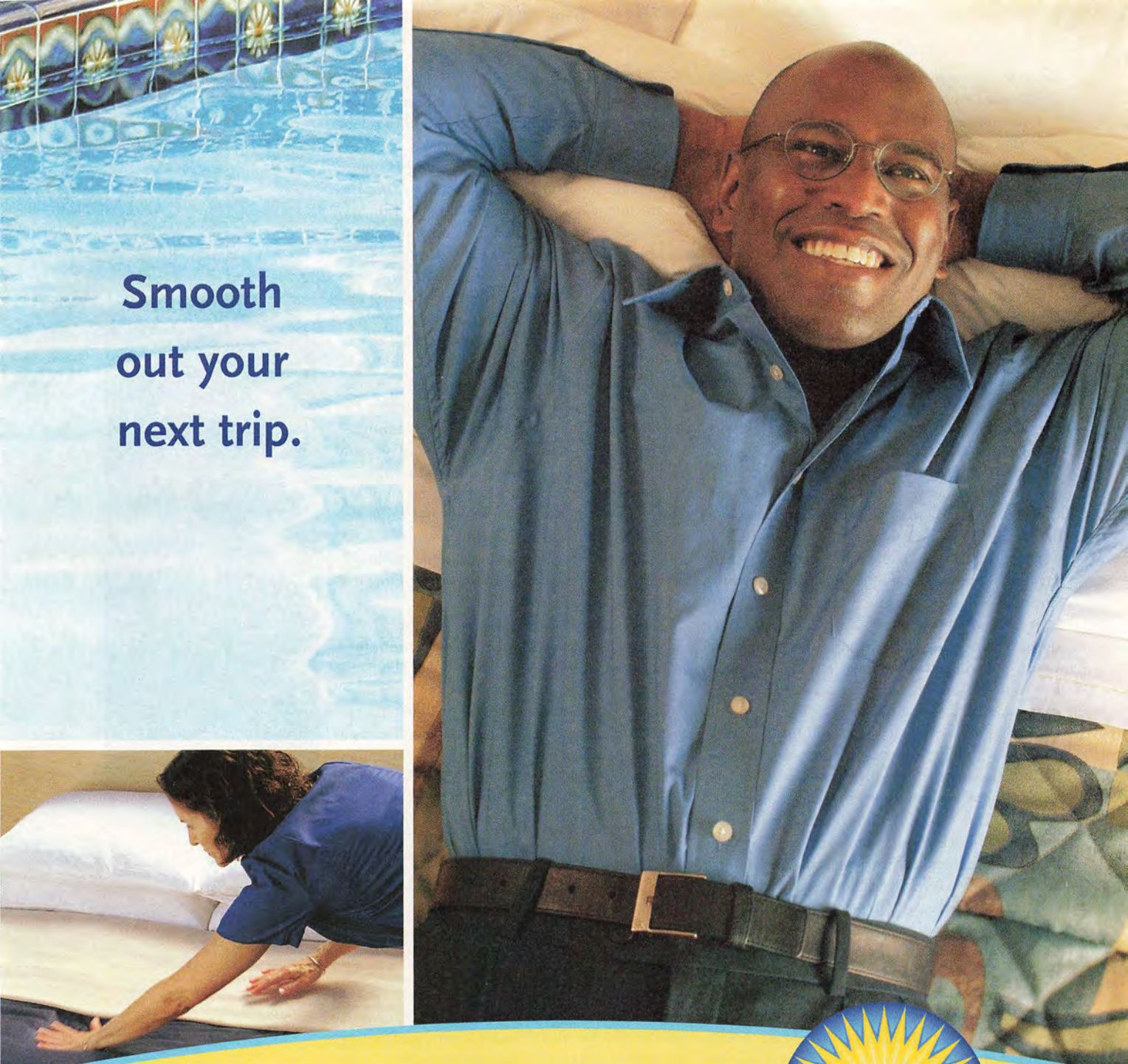
"There are fine football players in Indiana — don't get me wrong. But there is spring football in the South; we have AAU basketball. We produce basketball players; they produce football players."

— Purdue coach Joe Tiller

ham Harrell and Kansas's Todd Reesing — could be mentioned in Heisman discussions throughout the season. And two of the league's wide receivers — Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree and Missouri's Jeremy Maclin — could also join the Heisman conversation.

"A statement has been made about those quarterbacks nationwide," says Robert McFarland, Iowa State's offensive coordinator. "People know those names; they know who those guys are."

What hurt the Big 12 last season was a conference title game. Then-No. 1 Missouri was in position to play for the national title, but the Tigers lost to Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship and wound up excluded from a BCS game. Ohio State, on the other hand, rose in the BCS standings without playing in a conference championship. "Everyone should have one or no one should have one," Leach says of conference championships games. "It puts an extra strain on the teams that have to play them. I'm not op-



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posed to playing them, but every conference should do the same thing."

One conference that could have used a conference title game last season was the Pac-10. USC was one of five two-loss teams in contention to play Ohio State in the national championship game. The Trojans were playing as well as anyone nationally but, unlike LSU, had no way to improve their position with a potential conference championship game victory.

While the Trojans have carried the conference flag for most of the decade, other teams have emerged from year to year on the national radar. USC has set such a standard by winning six consecutive Pac-10 titles that "you either had to get better or fall off the edge of the world," says Oregon State's Riley, whose Beavers have won the second-most Pac-10 games over the past two seasons.

LSU coach Les Miles set the tenor for the 2007 season last summer when he said USC had a much easier road to travel to reach the national title game and sarcastically called some of the Trojans' Pac-10 opponents "real juggernauts." Riley wasn't surprised that Miles harbored those feelings but was a little surprised Miles voiced those thoughts publicly. He believes the Pac-10 is somewhat overshadowed nationally, particularly with late start times on the East Coast, and, along with Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson, feels out-of-conference performance helps garner conference-wide respect. The Pac-10 got off to a good start last season when California pounded Tennessee in a highly anticipated prime-time matchup. The conference gets more marquee inter-conference showdowns this season when USC hosts Ohio State on Sept. 13 and Arizona State hosts Georgia on Sept. 20. Erickson says watching tape of Georgia has been a "frightening" experience that has left him awake at night in cold sweats. But he believes "day in and day out, the Pac-10 can play with the SEC."

The reputations of two other BCS conferences — the ACC and Big East — have gone in opposite directions the past few years.

When two of the Big East's stalwarts, Virginia Tech and Miami, departed for the ACC in 2004 and Boston College joined the ACC a year later, it was seen by some as the beginning of the end of the Big East as a nationally relevant football conference. Some wondered whether the conference should retain an automatic BCS berth. When Dave Wannstedt took the head coaching job at Pittsburgh in December 2004, he moved into a league searching for an identity and perennial powers. "Coming back and getting into the Big East conference — with Louisville and Cincinnati coming in and Rutgers already in — I felt it would be a lot easier and not as competitive as it is," says Wannstedt. "After being here a couple years, I think our league's non-conference record speaks for itself. For whatever reason, no one wants to give us our full due."

That is no longer the case. West Virginia was a victory against Pittsburgh away from playing for the national title. Louisville was a national contender

under former coach Bobby Petrino. Even Rutgers and South Florida, which won at Auburn last season, have been ranked among the top 10 in recent years.

The ACC, on the other hand, might have more recognizable programs from a national perspective, but the league has not had a team play for the national title since expansion. What's more, ACC teams were 2–6 in bowl games last season. Miami and Florida State have regressed, nationally ranked Boston College stumbled down the stretch last season, and in an early-season game billed as a marquee inter-conference showdown, LSU pounded one of the ACC's best, Virginia Tech, 48–7, in Baton Rouge. This season, while Clemson appears the most talented team, there might not be a legitimate national title contender among the 12 ACC teams.

When asked if he is surprised that no ACC team has played for the national championship since expansion, Maryland coach Ralph Friedgen says: "I think we're our own worst enemy there. What makes it so tough is there is such parity. We play against each other and we get beat up and someone doesn't beat someone that should beat somebody. From top to bottom, we're fairly close."

"You see a lot of leagues where they have three or four very good teams and then at the bottom they are not quite as good. You can't say that about the ACC. Very, very balanced."

Regardless of how mediocre the ACC, Big East or any BCS conference is, the champion still earns a berth in one of five BCS games. In 2004, Pittsburgh made the Fiesta Bowl with a middling 8–3 record

CONFERENCE SUPREMACY



"It's all about debates. That is what separates this sport from any other sport at any level. It's kind of like, well, choosing a national champion without a true playoff system."

— Arizona State coach Dennis Erickson

before losing handily to Utah, a non-BCS team. "I don't like the fact that a weaker conference can win eight games and be automatically in the BCS," says Texas's Brown, without criticizing a specific conference. "What we are doing then is we have a place for conference champions to play at the end of the year. It's not the Bowl Championship Series then, it's the Conference Championship Series."

Stoops, however, believes that it is splitting hairs to compare the top teams in two power conferences, because the top two teams in any BCS league could play anyone competitively in other leagues. That may be true, but the fans who sang the praises of the SEC in the final minutes of January's national championship game would disagree.

"It's all about debates," Erickson says. "That is what separates this sport from any other sport at any level. It's kind of like, well, choosing a national champion without a true playoff system."

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PRESEASON

TOP 25

1 FLORIDA
GATORS

So much for that old expression, "No sophomore has ever won a Heisman Trophy." We'll never hear that one again. Tim Tebow finally set the precedent, and deservedly so, in his second year in Gainesville. It took former Gator quarterbacks Steve Spurrier and Danny Wuerffel four years to capture their Heismans, and they were superstars. Here's another first: No player in NCAA history had ever run and thrown for 20 touchdowns each in the same season, and Tebow ran for 23 and threw for 32 last fall.

Whatever Tebow manages to do for an encore, he will have weapons galore. Running-receiving threat Percy Harvin is back with a 9.6-yard career rushing average, 93 pass receptions and 15 touchdowns. Tebow and Harvin finished as the top two rushers on the team last year, but it's a pretty safe guess that Tebow will act more like a conventional quarterback and Harvin more like a wide receiver this year due to an upgrade in the backfield. Former *Parade* All-American Emmanuel Moody is now eligible after transferring from USC, where he started four early-season games in 2006, leading the Trojans in rushing in three of them and averaging 5.8 yards per carry with two scores. Highly regarded 2007 recruit Chris Rainey also could break out after missing most of last season with a shoulder injury. Tight end Cornelius Ingram, with seven touchdown receptions last fall, and coveted junior college transfer Carl Moore join Harvin in arguably the best receiving corps in America. Veteran guard Jim Tarrt spearheads an offensive line that boasts the return of eight players from last year's two-deep.

Defensively, end Derrick Harvey split for the pros with a year left, and he will be hard to replace. But the front four is well-stocked regardless, and the back seven should be strong as well. Consensus first-team All-SEC returnee Brandon Spikes amassed 131 tackles, 16 for a loss, broke up seven passes and recovered three fumbles, and leads the conference's top linebacker corps back into action in 2008. Dustin Doe pitched in with 85 stops and returned a fumble 19 yards for a touchdown in the Tennessee game. Cornerback Wondy Pierre-Louis returned his first career interception 25 yards for a touchdown versus Georgia last season, and sophomore safety Major Wright, who made plays all over the field as a true freshman, is going to be a force in the SEC.

The crucial conference games are the trip to Tennessee on Sept. 20, the visit from LSU on Oct. 11 and Georgia in Jacksonville on Nov. 1. The Florida State game is in Tallahassee for the regular-season finale.

- » **Not just a runner** Tebow finished second in the nation in passing efficiency last fall.
- » **Drive alive** Florida led the nation in third-down conversion percentage last season, turning 78 of 146 (53.4 percent) into first downs.
- » **Making their points** The 2007 Gators finished third in the FBS in scoring offense with 42.5 points per game.





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The bad news is that the Buckeyes looked altogether uncompetitive in the last two BCS Championship games. The good news is that 2008 was their target year all along. And in the recruiting coup of the year, Ohio State won the Terrelle Pryor sweepstakes. Pryor is a 6'6" dual-threat quarterback whose football exploits at Jeannette (Pa.) High School defy description. Todd Boeckman, who quarterbacked the scarlet and gray to the title game, completing 63.9 percent of his passes for 2,379 yards and 25 touchdowns, didn't come back for his fifth year to tote a clipboard. But Pryor won't ride the pine either — there will be an offensive package designed to utilize his skills, and his time on the field will increase

commensurate with his comfort zone as the season progresses.

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

However the quarterback rotation shakes out, it will be aided and abetted by tailback Chris Wells, who shredded opposing defenses for 1,609 yards (5.9 per carry) and 15 touchdowns last fall, a

veteran offensive line anchored by All-America left tackle Alex Boone, and all of the top pass-catchers from a year ago. Senior wideout Brian Robiskie averaged 17 yards on 55 catches and scored 11 times.

The Ohio State defense was statistically the nation's best last fall, allowing only 233.0 total yards and 12.8 points per game, and new starters are needed at only two positions. The top two tacklers — 2007 Butkus Award winner James Laurinaitis and Marcus Freeman — are back at their linebacker posts. The secondary, featuring All-America cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, returns intact after topping the national charts with 150.2 yards surrendered through the air.

The Buckeyes travel to Wisconsin on Oct. 4 and host Penn State on the 25th and Michigan in the Nov. 22 finale. But the game at USC on Sept. 13 will already have set the tone for the season.

Ministers of defense The 2007 Buckeyes finished No. 1 nationally in total defense, scoring defense and pass defense, and third against the run.

O-for-the SEC Ohio State is now winless in nine bowl matchups against teams from the Southeastern Conference.

Silver lining Lost in the rubble of a 38–24 loss to LSU in New Orleans were Laurinaitis' BCS Title game-record 18 tackles.

PRESEASON TOP 25

No Allen Patrick? No Malcolm Kelly? No problem. Quarterback Sam Bradford took the reins of Bob Stoops' offense as a redshirt freshman in 2007 and captured the nation's passing efficiency crown, with Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow coming in second. Bradford set a new NCAA freshman record with 36 touchdown passes, bettering the old mark by seven. He had consecutive completion streaks of 22 and 21, twice beating the old school record of 18 set by Jason White. And he threw five touchdown passes in a game twice, against Miami and Texas A&M.

Bradford's favorite target should be Juaquin Iglesias, more than half of whose 128 career receptions came last season. Iglesias scored five times on 68 catches and averaged 10.9 yards on eight rushes.

DeMarco Murray ran for 764 yards, 6.0 per carry and a team-high 13 touchdowns last season as a freshman. He ran back two kickoffs for touchdowns and scored on a 92-yard run from scrimmage. If he can rebound full-speed from a dislocated kneecap that cut his season short, and freshman Jermie Calhoun is all he's cracked up to be, look out for the Sooners on the ground, especially since all five starters and two top backups are back in the O-Line. The left side, where tackle Phil Loadhold and guard Duke Robinson line up, is particularly stout.

The defensive front four should be a team strength, anchored by end Auston English and tackle Gerald McCoy, but linebacker Curtis Lofton, the Sooners' leading tackler, and cornerback Reggie Smith both left for the pros with remaining eligibility. Defensive coordinator Brent Venables will shore up the back seven around linebacker Ryan Reynolds and safety Nic Harris.

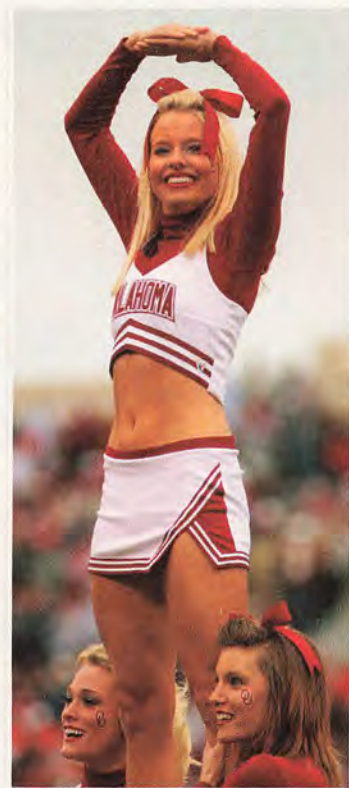
The Sept. 27 matchup against TCU appears to be this year's stiffest out-of-conference test, but the competition really heats up with consecutive midseason tilts against Texas in Dallas, and Kansas in Norman. Nebraska and Texas Tech both must visit Memorial Stadium in November.

Double-digit wins Oklahoma has won at least 10 games in a season on 30 occasions, more than any other school in the country.

Long distance The Sooners led the nation in kickoff returns last fall, averaging 28.3 yards on 56 runbacks.

Their own league Oklahoma has won 41 conference championships in 93 years as a league member — that's 44 percent of the time.

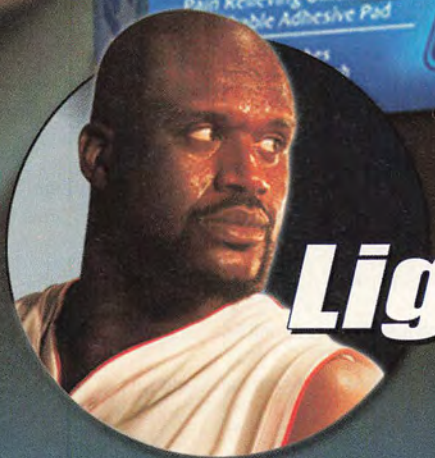
3 OKLAHOMA SOONERS



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For all of the overabundance of high school phenoms flocking to USC during the Pete Carroll era, the most important player on the 2008 roster might be a transfer from Arkansas. Damian Williams, a five-game starter for the Razorbacks as a true freshman in '06, could stir up a wide receiver corps that underperformed spectacularly last fall. Patrick Turner, Vidal Hazelton, David Ausberry and Ronald Johnson need to turn their vast potential into production now that All-America tight end Fred Davis isn't around for Trojan QBs to lean on anymore, and Williams could be the catalyst.

4 USC TROJANS

games among them as freshmen last year. Leading rusher Chauncey Washington has moved on, and yet the tailback picture is almost too crowded. Stafon Johnson averaged nearly seven yards on 98 carries with five touchdown jaunts last season, and he will be sharing the load in 2008 with exciting sophomore Joe McKnight and probably one or two others. The ball-carriers will follow Stanley Havili, one of the nation's best fullbacks, into the line.

On defense, the front four could feel the absence of end Lawrence Jackson and tackle Sedrick Ellis, but the back seven is arguably the nation's most formidable. The last two Rose Bowl Defensive MVPs — Brian Cushing and two-time first-team All-Pac-10 performer Rey Mauluga — enter their senior year at linebacker as Butkus Award candidates. Kevin Ellison and Taylor Mays, both entering their third year as starters, comprise America's top safety tandem.

This is the year Ohio State has been targeting for a national title, and the Trojans will host the Buckeyes in Game 2. In the even-year rotation, USC will host Notre Dame and travel across town to UCLA in the final two games.

- » **The new standard** USC is riding a six-year streak of 11-win seasons and has played in six consecutive BCS bowls — both NCAA records.
- » **The Man Carroll** is the nation's winningest active coach at 84.4 percent (76-14).
- » **Squeakers** The few Trojan losses under Carroll have been by an average of 4.2 points, with only one by more than a touchdown.



PRESEASON TOP 25



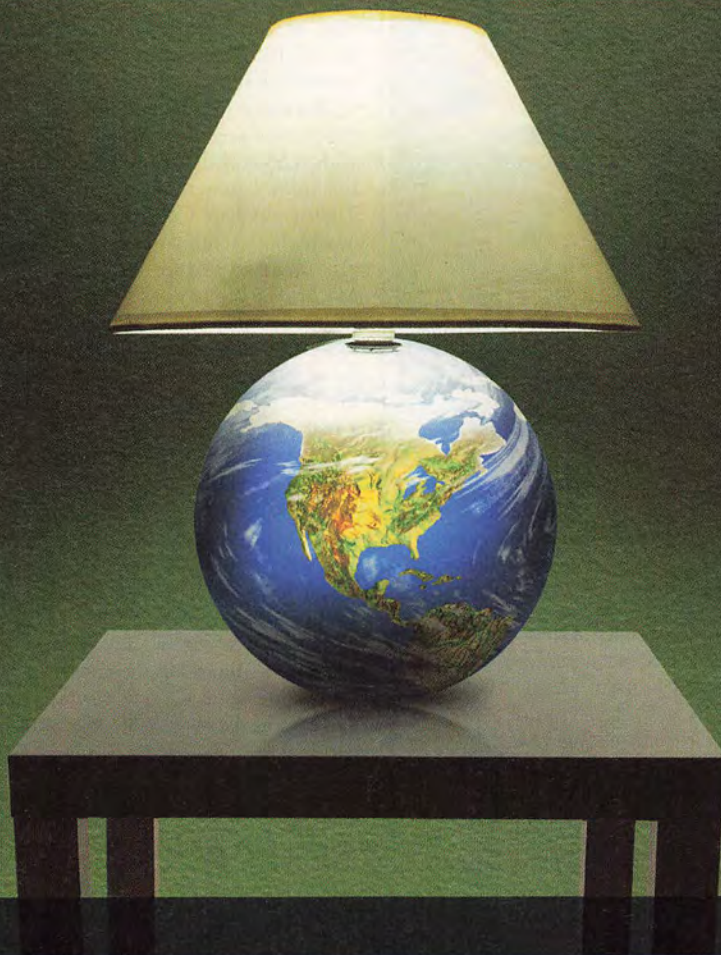
The Bulldogs enter 2008 without an apparent weakness, although the receiving corps could use a spark. Heralded freshmen A.J. Green and Tavarres King are coming in at precisely the right time. Senior Mohamed Massaquoi returns at flanker with an even 100 career catches, and Tripp Chandler is one of the SEC's top pass-catching tight ends. Delivering the ball will be quarterback Matthew Stafford, who is steadily morphing from a thrower into a passer. He will have added some luster to his career stats — .545 completion rate, 26-to-23 TD-to-INT margin — by the time the season ends.

Taking the pressure off the passing game will be one of the nation's best running backs in Knowshon Moreno, who ran for 1,334 yards and 14 scores and was named SEC Freshman of the Year. He will split carries this season (though probably not as much as 50-50) with redshirt freshman Caleb King. Three freshmen, including two true freshmen, were pressed into service as full-time starters in the offensive line last season, and they paved the way to a seven-game winning streak to finish the season.

Seven starters return on defense, including the top four tacklers. Geno Atkins, who racked up a team-high 14.5 tackles behind the line, leads the defensive line from his tackle spot. The linebacking corps returns intact, led by team-leading tackler Dannell Ellerbe (93 total stops, 12 for losses). Juniors Asher Allen and Prince Miller, with four picks and 12 pass breakups between them, will once again hold down the corners.

The Bulldogs will enjoy a week off between the Alabama and Tennessee contests, both at home in midseason. The Florida game in Jacksonville follows directly on the heels of a road trip to defending national champion LSU.

- » **Fast company** Knowshon Moreno's 1,334 rushing yards last season trailed only Herschel Walker's 1,616 in 1980 for Bulldog freshmen.
- » **No. 2 and trying harder** Georgia finished second in the SEC in red zone efficiency, scoring on 47 of 53 trips, and in turnover margin (plus-9).
- » **Quarterback down** The 2007 Bulldogs led the SEC and tied for eighth nationally with 42 sacks on the season (3.2 per game).



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MISSOURI TIGERS

- » **A season of firsts** In 2007, Missouri claimed its first Big 12 North title, earned its first No. 1 national ranking, and posted its first 12-win season.
- » **Maclin's marks** Maclin's 99-yard kickoff return at K-State and his 2,776 all-purpose yards for the season are both NCAA freshman records.
- » **More from Maclin** Maclin's kickoff return for a touchdown was the school's first since 1982.

Missouri is currently riding what will be remembered forever as the Pinkel Era. It took coach Gary Pinkel seven years to get his program rolling, and now there may be no stopping it. The Tigers finished 2007 in a New Year's Day bowl game for the first time in more than 40 years, achieved their highest-ever final ranking of fourth in the AP Poll, and return 15 starters from the best team in school history for 2008.

The triggerman is quarterback Chase Daniel, the reigning Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year. In 2007, Daniel set new school records with 4,559 yards of total offense, 4,306 passing yards and 33 touchdown passes, and finished fourth in the Heisman voting. Tight end Chase Coffman and All-America wide receiver Jeremy Maclin both return after combining for 132 pass receptions a year ago. Coffman tied for the team-high with nine TD catches, and Maclin, the Big 12 co-Offensive Freshman of the Year, amassed the fifth-most all-purpose yards (running, receiving and returning kicks) in a single season in NCAA history. Jimmy Jackson ran for seven touchdowns in '07 and will team with Derrick Washington to replace the production lost by tailback Tony Temple, a two-time 1,000-yard rusher.

The young Missouri defense emerged as one of the conference's best last season, and nine starters are back. Safety William Moore provides an All-America presence in the secondary after racking up 115 tackles and tying for first in the nation with eight interceptions. The linebacking corps of Sean Weatherspoon, Brock Christopher and Van Alexander returns intact. Weatherspoon, a first-team All-Big 12 returnee, paced the '07

Tigers in tackles with 127, 9.5 for a loss. End Stryker Sulak leads the charge up front.

The 2008 season begins and ends with a rivalry game on a neutral field — Illinois in the opener in St. Louis, and the finale with Kansas in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium. A road trip to Texas and a home date with Colorado come on consecutive late-October Saturdays.

PRESEASON TOP 25

Interim head coaches were 1–6 in bowl games this past postseason. The only winner was Bill Stewart, who took over in Morgantown following Rich Rodriguez's resignation and engineered the Mountaineers' stunning 48–28 Fiesta Bowl triumph over Oklahoma. For fans who may have been wondering how the players would respond to their new coach, the early results are most encouraging.

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

running (pun intended), has no rival as a spread-option quarterback. White has been the starter since midway through his freshman year. As a junior last fall, he ran for 1,335 yards at 6.8 per carry, and threw for 1,724 yards on 144-of-216 attempts. He scored 14 touchdowns on the ground and threw for 14 more. Running back Steve Slaton took off for the NFL with a year of eligibility remaining, but Noel Devine should step right in and flourish. Devine flashed glimpses of his enormous potential last year, averaging 8.6 yards per carry with six touchdowns in a limited role. White, Devine and their supporting cast will work behind arguably the nation's best offensive line, with All-America tackle Ryan Stanchek and All-Big East guard Greg Isdener holding down the left side.

There is some rebuilding to be done on defense, but last year's top two tacklers — linebackers Reed Williams and Mortty Ivy — will steady the unit until help arrives.

There are potential landmines all over the schedule — at East Carolina and at Colorado in September, home to Auburn in October, and the visit from South Florida in the Dec. 6 finale. But the one circled in red is the trip to Pitt on Nov. 28.

- » **Happy New Year** West Virginia is one of only two teams to have played in five straight New Year's bowl games. The other is USC.
- » **Padding his record** White holds the Big East record for career rushing yards by a quarterback with 3,506, and he still has a year to play.
- » **Ground attack** The 2007 Mountaineers finished third nationally in rushing offense with 297 yards per game, trailing only Navy and Air Force.



Missouri: Larry Smith; WVU: Bruce Schwartzman

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Forget about ever seeing a huddle again at Auburn, at least for as long as Tony Franklin is coordinating Tommy Tuberville's offense. On the heels of Al Borges' termination, Tuberville brought in Franklin from the staff at Troy to install a spread offense. Franklin directed the attack in Auburn's 23-20 Chick-fil-A Bowl win over Clemson, and gave Kodi Burns equal snaps at quarterback with now-departed Brandon Cox. Burns, just the kind of dual-threat quarterback the no-huddle spread offense requires to keep defenses off-balance, scored the game-winning touchdown on a seven-yard run in overtime. Chris Todd, a transfer from Texas Tech by way of Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, enrolled at Auburn in January and has an equal shot at the job.

8 AUBURN TIGERS

O-line starters were freshmen. Unlike Georgia, all three of Auburn's were true freshmen.

Tate led the ground game last fall with 903 yards and eight touchdowns. Lester pitched in with 530 yards and Fannin posted a team-high 5.3-yard average on 84 carries. Wide receiver Rodgeriquis Smith is also back after a 52-catch, five touchdown campaign in '07.

Quentin Groves and Pat Sims are big losses from the defensive front four, but end Antonio Coleman returns after registering team highs with 18 tackles for a loss and 8.5 sacks last season, and he also batted down three passes at the line. The back seven is set with the linebacking corps returning two-deep and safety Zac Etheridge leading three returning starters in the secondary.

The schedule favors Auburn in that LSU, Tennessee and Georgia all must visit Jordan-Hare Stadium. But there is a trip to West Virginia in October, and the 2008 Iron Bowl is slated for Tuscaloosa.

- » **Bragging rights** The 17-10 win over Alabama gave Auburn its longest-ever winning streak in that storied series at six games.
- » **More sixes** The 2007 Tigers finished sixth in the nation in pass defense, total defense and scoring defense.
- » **Grounded** Auburn fielded one of the nation's least productive passing games last fall, coming in at 103rd with 178 yards per game.



PRESEASON TOP 25

9 LSU TIGERS

If football games are won and lost in the trenches, LSU will win a lot of football games this year. All-American Glenn Dorsey is gone, but it would be a mistake to underestimate the

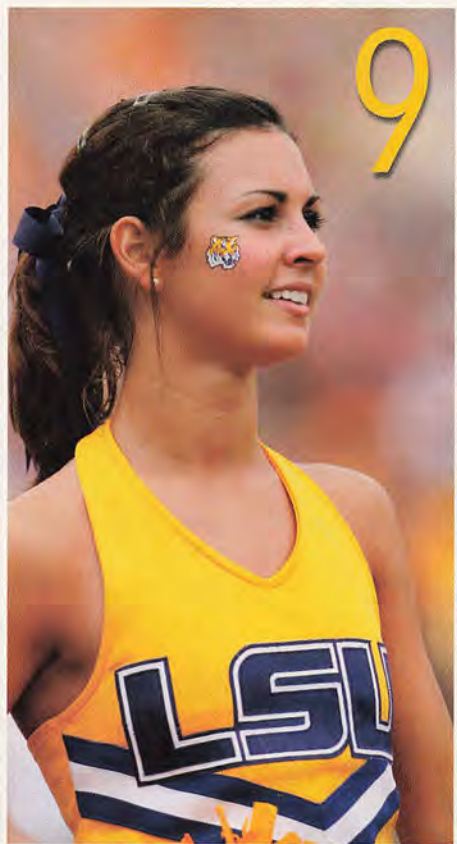
Bayou Bengals' defensive line. The other three 2007 starters and all four second-stringers are returning to action. Kirston Pittman and Tyson Jackson comprise the most fearsome defensive end tandem in America. Pittman, who has been granted a sixth year by the NCAA, led the Tiger defense with 13.5 tackles for a loss and eight sacks, and in the Florida game he branched out and intercepted a pass from Tim Tebow. Jackson batted down 10 passes at the line. Coach Les Miles plans to play junior Ricky Jean-Francois, coming off a dominating performance in the BCS Championship game, at both tackle and end.

Eight of the 10 players on last year's offensive line two-deep are back for '08, led by All-SEC performers Herman Johnson and Ciron Black. They will be clearing a path for running backs Keiland Williams and Charles Scott. Williams averaged 6.8 yards per carry last fall and scored on runs of 67 and 32 yards against Virginia Tech. There are concerns at quarterback after Ryan Perrilloux was dismissed from the team in May. Now, Gary Crowton will have to put his complex offense in the hands of either redshirt freshman Jarrett Lee or junior Andrew Hatch. The new quarterback will learn to get the ball to Brandon LaFell and Demetrius Byrd, who combined last fall for 85 catches, a 15-yard average and 11 touchdown grabs.

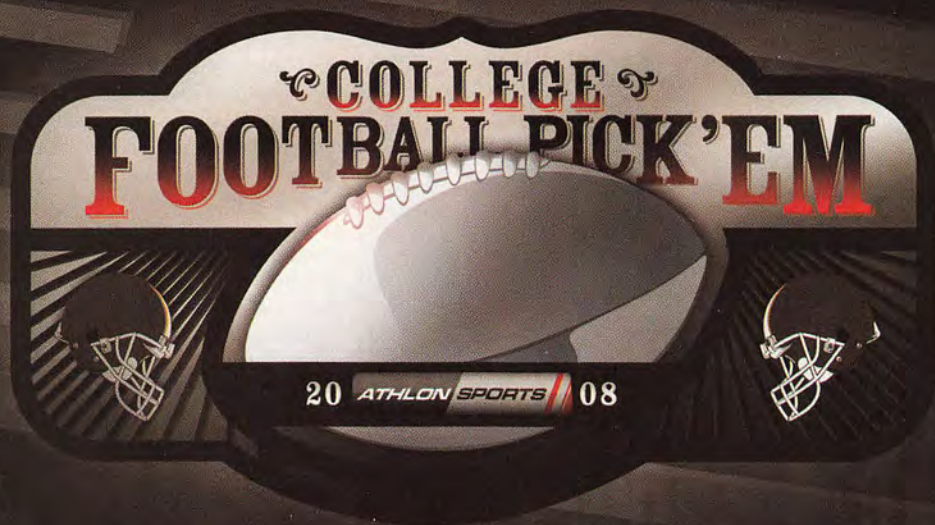
With linebacker Ali Highsmith, safety Craig Steltz, and cornerbacks Chevis Jackson and Jonathan Zenon all gone, the defensive back seven will be restocked around linebacker Darry Beckwith and safeties Curtis Taylor and Danny McCray.

The Tigers open the 2008 season at home against Appalachian State. (Uh-oh. Where did Miles play his college ball?) Trips to Auburn and Florida and home games against Georgia and Alabama highlight a tough conference slate.

- » **Winners** LSU is the only school to have won two BCS national championships.
- » **Three-year tear** The Tigers have won 34 games in Miles' first three years, tying USC for the most wins in Division I-A over that span.
- » **Go for it** LSU led the nation in fourth-down efficiency last season, turning 13 of 16 (81.3 percent) into first downs.



Auburn: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; LSU: Layne Murdoch



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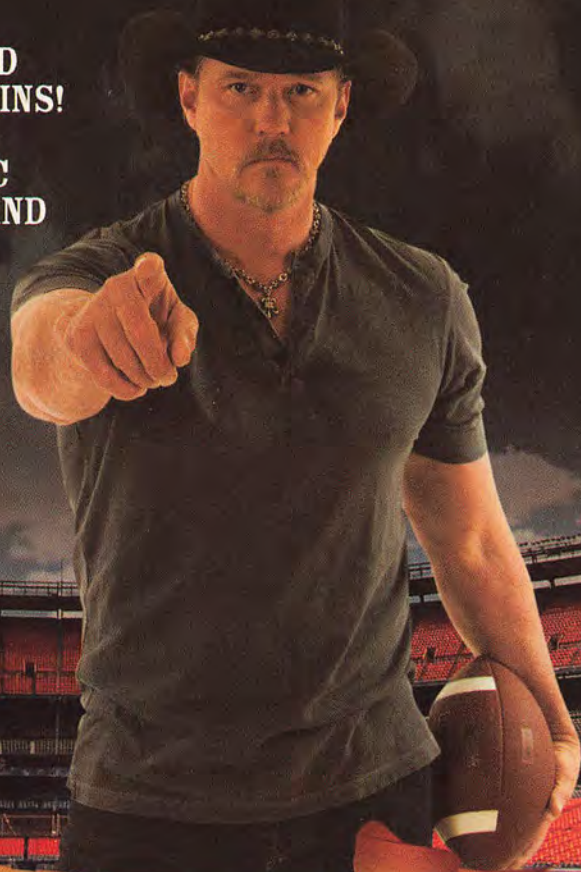
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CLEMSON 10 TIGERS

- » **Ball protection** Clemson gave up only 12 turnovers in 13 games last fall, ranking second in the nation.
- » **Lighting it up** The Tigers scored 430 points last season, a new school record.
- » **Stubborn** Clemson finished 2007 ranked ninth in the nation in total defense (306.8 yards per game) and tied for 10th in scoring defense (18.7 points per game).

Hamlin and Chris Clemons. Hamlin and cornerback returnee Chris Chancellor nabbed four interceptions apiece in '07. And the three returning starters in the front four — end Ricky Sapp and tackles Dorell Scott and Rashaad Jackson — broke through for 22 tackles behind the line last season.

The 2008 schedule is sandwiched between games against SEC teams — opening in the Georgia Dome against Alabama and closing at home with South Carolina. The Tigers must travel to Wake Forest and Florida State this year, but defending league champion Virginia Tech is absent from the slate.

If ever the stars were aligned for that elusive ACC title for Clemson during the Tommy Bowden era, it's now. With weapons like Cullen Harper — one of the most accurate passers in the game — and the lethal one-two tailback punch of James Davis and C.J. Spiller, Tommy's Tigers should ring in the New Year with their first BCS bid.

Harper is a 65-percent passer who threw for 2,991 yards and 27 touchdowns last fall. And his favorite targets both return in wideouts Aaron Kelly and Tyler Grisham, who combined for 148 receptions and 15 touchdowns. Davis and Spiller have shredded opponents' defenses for 4,836 career rushing yards and 49 touchdowns between them, and both can score from anywhere on the field. A question mark looms up front, however, with only one O-Line starter back from last year.

Defensive coordinator Vic Koenning has eight returning starters to work with, but leading tackler Nick Watkins and sack man Phillip Merling aren't among them. The top returning tacklers are safeties Michael

PRESEASON TOP 25

The Longhorns are entering Year 3 of the Colt McCoy era. McCoy redshirted as a freshman in 2005, then started all 26 games over the last two years. He has thrown for 5,873 yards and 51 touchdowns, and he has completed a school-record 66.4 percent of his passes. His touchdown-to-interception ratio, however, could use some tightening up after taking a dip last season. Limas Sweed and Nate Jones are gone from the receiving corps, but Quan Cosby and Jordan Shipley are proven commodities, each with nine ca-

TEXAS LONGHORNS

reer TD grabs. Cosby has 120 career receptions, and Shipley picked up 15.4 yards per catch last season.

The early departure of running back Jamaal Charles for the NFL puts the pressure on sophomore Vondrell McGee, a former *Parade* All-American who ran for eight scores last year, to step out of Charles' shadow. Or else the pressure will be on the passing game to carry the load. McCoy is the top returning rusher. Six players saw regular action on the offensive line last season, and four return. Chris Hall started at least one game at each of the five positions, while tackle Adam Ulatoski and guard Cedric Dockery both earned all-conference recognition.

Graduation claimed two All-Big 12 first-teamers from the defense along with third-team All-America tackle Frank Okam, leaving end Brian Orakpo, the reigning Holiday Bowl MVP, and two-time All-Big 12 linebacker Rashad Bobino to lead the unit into 2008. Ryan Palmer will provide veteran leadership in the secondary after breaking up 11 passes and recovering two fumbles in 2007.

There is a three-week stretch in October when the Longhorns will face Colorado in Boulder and Oklahoma in Dallas, then entertain red-hot Missouri in Austin. The finale at home with Texas A&M is preceded by a week off following the game at Kansas.



- » **Climbing the charts** With two years left to play, McCoy already stands sixth on Texas' all-time list with 5,873 passing yards and fourth with 51 touchdown passes.
- » **Going bowling** Texas has won four consecutive bowl games for the first time in school history.
- » **Ten-win wonders** Texas has won 10 or more games in each of the last seven seasons, more than any other school.

Clemson: Danny Murphy; Texas: Chris Covatta



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ARMY STRONG.™



There are 19 starters from 2007 coming back for Wisconsin in '08, but not one of them is a quarterback. The only quarterback on the roster with significant experience is senior Allan Evridge, who transferred to Wisconsin from Kansas State after throwing for a Wildcat freshman record 1,365 yards in nine games in 2005. Last year in Madison, Evridge was 5-of-12 while backing up Tyler Donovan.

Evridge will have the top three receivers from last year's team to work with in tight ends Travis Beckum and Garrett Graham and wide receiver Kyle Jefferson. The All-American Beckum led the team with 75 catches for just under 1,000 yards and six touchdowns.

WISCONSIN BADGERS

The deepest position on the team is running back. P.J. Hill is the headliner with 2,805 career rushing yards and 29 touchdowns in only two seasons. He is only the third player to rush for more than 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons at a school renowned for running backs.

Zach Brown also returns after starting the final four games of '07 for an injured Hill and was named Big Ten Player of the Week for a 250-yard, two-TD performance against Minnesota. Brown and Lance Smith-Williams ran for 997 yards and eight scores combined last fall. Only one 2007 starter is missing from the offensive line, where guard Kraig Urbik is the leader of the pack and redshirt freshman tackle Josh Oglesby is a future star.

Though nine starters are back on defense, tackle Nick Hayden and cornerback Jack Ikegwonu need to be replaced, and they were impact players. But so are returnees Matt Shaughnessy at end, Jonathan Casillas and DeAndre Levy at linebacker, and Shane Carter at safety. Shaughnessy was named the team's Defensive MVP after notching 18 tackles behind the line and five sacks, Casillas led the team in tackles with 96, and Carter was the Big Ten's interception

12

leader with seven.

A trip to Fresno State in Game 3 highlights the non-conference schedule. At Michigan and home to Ohio State and Penn State fall on three consecutive Saturdays in October.

- » **Rare honor** Badger receiver-return man David Gilreath was the first true freshman to be named Big Ten Player of the Week since Ron Dayne in 1996.
- » **Top tight end** Travis Beckum led the nation's tight ends in 2007 with 982 receiving yards.
- » **Keep away** Wisconsin finished first nationally in time of possession last season, owning the ball for 33:44 per game.

PRESEASON TOP 25

Kansas thrust itself into the national spotlight last season, coming within one win of perfection. The Jayhawks took an 11-0 record into the 2 vs. 3 matchup with Missouri in Kansas City and came up just short, but spent the offseason with a good taste in their mouths thanks to a 24-21 Orange Bowl win over Virginia Tech. Quarterback Todd Reesing, who threw a touchdown pass and ran for another in the Orange Bowl, is reason number one for optimism entering 2008. Nine returning starters on defense is reason number two.

In his first season as a starter, Reesing connected on 62 percent of his passes for 3,476 yards and 33 touchdowns, and ran for three scores. With two years to play, he already holds school career records with 36 touchdown passes and five 300-yard passing games. Brandon McAnderson is gone after an 1,135-yard, 5.9-per-carry, 16-touchdown campaign, but Jake Sharp ran for 817 yards, 5.6 per carry and seven touchdowns as a backup and should slip right into McAnderson's role as feature back. Dexter Fields has led the Jayhawks in receptions each of the last two seasons, and he's back, but Marcus Henry was more of a home run threat, and he's gone.

The top four tacklers return from 2007, led by first-team All-Big 12 linebacker Joe Mortensen (106 total stops) and followed by linebackers James Holt and Mike Rivera and safety Darrell Stuckey. Mortensen also paced the squad with 15 tackles behind the line. Safety Justin Thornton notched five interceptions despite not cracking the starting lineup until late in the season, while Stuckey and cornerback Chris Harris pitched in with two picks apiece.

The Colorado game this year is in Lawrence, but the Oklahoma game a week later is in Norman. In November, the Jayhawks will host Texas, then take a week off before taking on Missouri in Kansas City.

- » **Give and take. Mostly take.** Kansas led the nation in turnover margin last fall at plus-1.62 per game.
- » **Long time coming** The 2007 Jayhawks appeared in the school's first January bowl game since 1968.
- » **Setting the standard** Kansas set school per-game records last fall for total yards (479.8), passing yards (291.0) and points (42.8).

13 KANSAS JAYHAWKS



Wisconsin: Brian Eber; Kansas: Larry Smith

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Since taking over as Cougars' coach three years ago, Bronco Mendenhall has put the Cougars back on the map. A 6-6 record in his inaugural year of 2005 has been followed by two straight 11-win seasons and a perfect 16-0 record in the Mountain West Conference. And he has the material on hand in 2008 to keep it rolling, at least on offense.

BYU COUGARS

Junior quarterback Max Hall is the triggerman. He threw for 26 scores and almost 4,000 yards last fall, with a 60.1-percent completion rate. His top four receivers all return as well. Tight end Dennis Pitta, who joined Hall on the All-MWC first team, combined with wide receiver Austin Collie for 115 receptions and 12 touchdown grabs, and Collie posted a team-high 16.9 yards per catch. Wideout Michael Reed pitched in with four TD catches.

Running back Harvey Unga, the reigning MWC Freshman of the Year, is another valuable receiver with 44 catches out of the backfield last fall. He also set the conference's freshman rushing record with 1,227 yards at 5.0 per carry. He scored 13 touchdowns on the ground and four more on pass receptions. An offensive line that returns four starters, led by guard Ray Feinga and tackle Dallas Reynolds, both 6'5", 330 pounds-plus, will keep Mendenhall's high-octane offense firing on all cylinders.

The defense loses its top two tacklers and the entire starting secondary from a year ago, but end Jan Jorgensen should once again cause opposing offenses some painful moments after a 20-tackle-for-a-loss, 14-sack sophomore campaign in '07. Linebacker David Nixon posted 66 tackles, including 10 behind the line, and should steady things in the rebuilt back seven.

BYU will test itself against the Pac-10 for two September contests — at Washington and home against UCLA. The Cougars will have to travel to take on their closest conference competitors — TCU on Oct. 16 and Utah in the Nov. 22 finale.

- » **Sophomore sensation** Hall became the Mountain West Conference's most prolific sophomore quarterback of all time with 3,848 yards.
- » **Fantastic freshman** Unga set a new MWC record with 1,840 all-purpose yards.
- » **Friendly confines** BYU is a perfect 12-0 at home over the last two years.

14

PRESEASON TOP 25

The Sun Devils enjoyed a three-game turnaround, from 7-6 and losing three of their last five games in 2006, to 10-3 in Dennis Erickson's first season. For 2008, six starters are back on offense and seven on defense. Quarterback Rudy Carpenter has been characterized as tough more than anything else, but he is also remarkably skilled. Last year he completed 62 percent of his passes for 3,202 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Carpenter's supporting cast looks generally familiar, with his top two receivers — Chris McGaha and Michael Jones — and leading rusher Keegan Herring also back for '08. McGaha and

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

Jones combined for 107 receptions at 15 yards per catch. McGaha led the team with 61 catches; Jones posted team highs with a 16.7-yard average and 10 touchdowns. Herring and Dmitri Nance ran for more yards than any other teammate duo in the Pac-10 coming back for 2008. Together they rushed for 1,315 yards and 12 touchdowns in '07. Their differing styles — Herring is explosive and fast; Nance is a 220-pound power back — complement each other beautifully. The offensive line will be rebuilt around gargantuan (6'6", 336) guard Paul Fanaika, with Shawn Lauvao back at the other guard.

Linebacker Travis Goethel is the top returning tackler, though safety Troy Nolan is the most dynamic defender, having totaled 64 tackles and six interceptions last fall. He returned two of his picks for scores. The front four is a veteran unit featuring returning starters Dexter Davis, Luis Vasquez and David Smith. Ends Davis and Vasquez collected 25 tackles behind the line and 15 sacks between them a year ago. Smith picked off a pass from his tackle position and rumbled 18 yards with the return.

The Sun Devils and the Georgia Bulldogs will meet this year for the first time, at Sun Devil Stadium on Sept. 20. The month of October features trips to California and USC and a home date with Oregon.



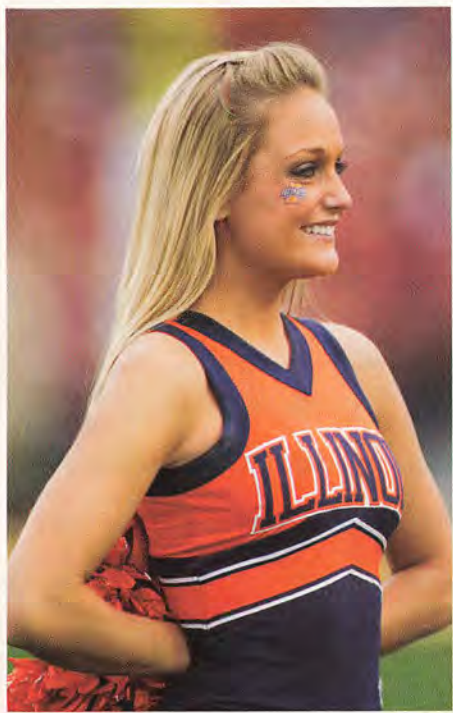
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» **Iron man** Carpenter has started more consecutive games (31) than any other active quarterback in the nation.

» **Possessive** The 2007 Sun Devils held onto the football for an average of 33:08 per game, ranking third nationally.

» **Trifecta** Erickson is the only coach to have been named Pac-10 Coach of the Year at three different schools — Washington State, Oregon State and Arizona State.

BYU: Brad Schloss; AZ State: Stephen Brashear; Illinois: Peter Brouillet; Tennessee: Paul Levy



Juice Williams is determined to become more of a quarterback and less of an athlete who lines up under center and takes off with the ball. Progress was made when he improved his completion percentage from 39.5 as a freshman in 2006 to 57.3 last season, and he slightly upped his touchdown-to-interception ratio. And in the Rose Bowl the Illini signal-caller was 21-of-35 for 245 yards against USC. But Williams is dangerous with the ball in his hands and room to run, having compiled over 1,300 rushing yards in his first two years. Eddie McGee, 29-of-55 in 10 games last season, is still around for a change of pace.

Arrelious Benn caught 54 passes in his first year as a collegian and was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year by both the media and coaches. He also averaged 4.9 yards on 32 rushing attempts.

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI 16

But he is a wide receiver, and a replacement for Rashard Mendenhall, the most productive running back in the Big Ten last season, remains a question mark. Junior Daniel Dufrane

could be the man, though incoming freshman Mikel LeShoure likely will be in the mix. Three starters are back on the offensive line to help.

Coach Ron Zook must replace his best defensive player in linebacker J Leman, who far outpaced the rest of the team with 132 tackles last season. The strength of the defense is up front, where three starters return to action. Will Davis, who led Illini defenders with 12.5 tackles for a loss and 9.5 sacks, leads the charge. Sophomore Josh Brent is an immovable, 6'2", 325-pound force in the middle. Junior Vontae Davis rates as one of the best cornerbacks in the nation.

The 2008 conference slate opens up with trips to Penn State on Sept. 27 and Michigan a week later. The Illini will also have to take on Wisconsin on the road, but Ohio State comes to Champaign-Urbana on Nov. 15.

- » **Ground Illini** Illinois has led the Big Ten in rushing for each of the last two years.
- » **Turnaround** Illinois' seven-game improvement in the win column from 2006 to 2007 was the nation's best.
- » **Offensive** The 2007 Illini set school records with 3,338 rushing yards and 5,525 total yards.

PRESEASON TOP 25

The Volunteers are rarely afraid to lean on their running game, and with a new starting quarterback, 2008 will be true to form. Three talented tailbacks all are back to shoulder the load, with Arian Foster front and center. Foster ran for 1,193 yards and 12 touchdowns last fall. Montario Hardesty followed up with 373 tough yards and three scores. Lennon Creer, last year's big-time running back recruit, showed flashes of his potential with a 5.9-yard average on 36 attempts. All-America guard Anthony Parker leads five offensive line starters back into the trenches, so there should be openings for the backs to run through.

Erik Ainge, the starting quarterback for most of the last four years, is gone. Former *Parade* All-American Jonathan Crompton enters his junior year with the reins of Phillip Fulmer's offense in his hands. Crompton, the North Carolina native with 14 game appearances and one start under his belt, throws and runs with authority. One of the top wide receiver groups in the SEC — Lucas Taylor, Austin Rogers, and Josh Briscoe — will help ease Crompton's transition to starting status. The trio combined for 185 catches for 15 touchdowns and well over 2,000 yards a year ago.

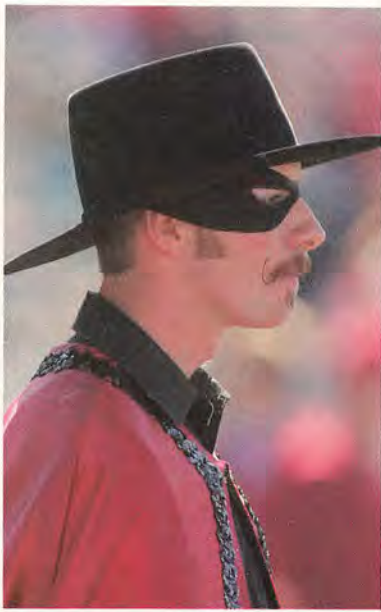
Jerod Mayo's early departure for the NFL leaves Rico McCoy as the top returning tackler with 106 total stops last fall. If Demetric Morley and Eric Berry aren't the best safety tandem in college football, they're certainly one of the top three. Morley collected 51 tackles, including seven behind the line, and two interceptions in 2006 before sitting out last season. Berry intercepted five passes with 222 total return yards and a score as a true freshman last fall. Robert Ayers is back at end after leading the 2007 Vols in both tackles for a loss (12) and sacks (four).

After returning from the Sept. 1 UCLA game in Pasadena, UT will host UAB before taking on Florida in Knoxville and Auburn on the road to close out the month. The Georgia game is in Athens on Oct. 11, and LSU is off the schedule this year.

- » **Quarterback safety** The 2007 Vols led the nation for fewest sacks allowed with four.
- » **So close** Foster is 685 yards shy of establishing a new Tennessee career rushing record.
- » **Still No. 1** Fulmer's winning percentage of .766 (147-45) is still the highest of all FBS coaches with 10 or more years.

17 TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS





At a school known for changing quarterbacks on a yearly basis, Graham Harrell has brought stability to the position at Texas Tech. With Harrell entering his third year as the starter and wide receiver Michael Crabtree also back, coach Mike Leach's Red Raiders should continue to throw the ball more prolifically than anyone else on the planet.

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

As a sophomore in 2006, Harrell threw for 4,555 yards, then followed that up last year by becoming the sixth player in NCAA history to throw for more than 5,000 yards in a season. He has completed 69 percent of his 1,385 career passes for 10,682 yards, and has thrown 86 touchdown passes over the last two seasons alone.

In 2007, Crabtree amassed the gaudiest receiving numbers of any freshman who ever played the game. He caught 134 passes for 1,962 yards and 22 touchdowns, became the school's first unanimous All-American since linebacker Zach Thomas in 1995 and won the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver.

All three of the running backs who shared the load in 2007 return, with Shannon Woods leading the way after a 439-yard campaign. First-team All-Big 12 guard Louis Vasquez leads four returning starters back to action in the offensive line. There are eight starters back on defense, with linebacker Marlon Williams the top returning tackler. End Brandon Williams, who posted team highs with 12.5 tackles for a loss and six sacks, is back along with cornerback Jamar Wall, who led the team with five interceptions.

Missouri is mercifully missing from the 2008 schedule, but Texas will come calling on Nov. 1. There is an open date before the trip to Oklahoma on Nov. 22.

Harrell hits new high In the Red Raiders' 31–28 win over Virginia on New Year's Day, Harrell set a new Gator Bowl record with 407 passing yards.

Atop the charts Crabtree led the nation in receptions, receiving yards and touchdown catches.

Postseason regulars Mike Leach has coached Texas Tech to bowl games in each of the eight seasons since he took over in Lubbock.

18

PRESEASON TOP 25

The Ducks were in the national championship conversation last fall before the knee injury to quarterback Dennis Dixon silenced the talk. Or at least changed the subject to what could have been. Dixon and 1,722-yard rusher Jonathan Stewart are both gone now, leaving the ball in the hands of a first-time starting quarterback (Justin Roper or Nate Costa) and a running back (LeGarrette Blount) new to campus.

OREGON DUCKS

Roper finished the season as Oregon's quarterback and set a Sun Bowl record with four touchdown passes in the 56–21 win over South Florida. And this was only his fifth game appearance of the year after opening the season fifth-string. Roper, a 6'6" pocket passer, or Costa, a more mobile sophomore who has been battling knee issues, both have an equal shot at the job going into the fall. Whoever lines up under center will have last year's top two pass catchers to work with. Wide receiver Jaison Williams has caught 138 passes for 2,073 yards and 17 touchdowns over his career, and tight end Ed Dickson is back after a 43-reception, three-touchdown output in '07.

Blount is the top-rated running back coming out of the junior college ranks this year (East Mississippi Community College). All-America center Max Unger and All-Pac-10 tackle Fenuki Tupou are stalwarts in a big, experienced, run-blocking line.

Safety Patrick Chung and cornerback Walter Thurmond III are back after finishing 1-2 on the team in tackles last season. Chung, a second-team All-American entering his fourth year as a starter, registered 117 tackles and two interceptions last season. Thurmond led the team with five interceptions and a whopping 18 pass breakups. End Nick Reed put up some impressive numbers of his own with 22.5 tackles for a loss and 12 sacks, and he's back to lead the charge up front.

USC, Arizona State and California are all midseason road games for the Ducks this season. The Civil War is slated for Corvallis on Dec. 1.



19

» **The curse** With a 34–24 loss to Arizona, Oregon became the fifth team to lose last season after ascending to No. 2 in the polls.

» **Big loss** Departed Duck tailback Jonathan Stewart finished seventh in the nation in rushing last season at 132.5 yards per game.

» **Push 'em back** Oregon defenders led the nation last fall in tackles for losses, with an average of 9.4 per game.

Texas Tech: Tim Clark/Albion Sports; Oregon: Sal Neelman; South Florida, VA Tech: Bruce Schwartzman

USF began playing intercollegiate football in 1997. It joined Division I-A in 2001, and by the seventh game of the 2007 season, the Bulls were the No. 2-ranked team in the country. The school's entire meteoric rise has been overseen by coach Jim Leavitt, who was hired as head coach on Dec. 12, 1995, before the program even existed. Of course, as the No. 2 team in the country, the Bulls lost. Their six-game winning streak to start the season ended with a 30-27 loss at Rutgers, but their 9-4 record in 2007 and the return of most of last year's cast point to more success in '08.

The main weapon in Leavitt's arsenal is quarterback Matt Grothe, who paced the team in both passing and rushing last fall. He ran for 872 yards and 10 touchdowns, and completed 59 percent of his passes for 2,670 yards and 14 more scores. Grothe shared ball-carrying responsibilities with Mike

Ford, who ran for 645 yards and 12 touchdowns as a true freshman last year. Ford, a

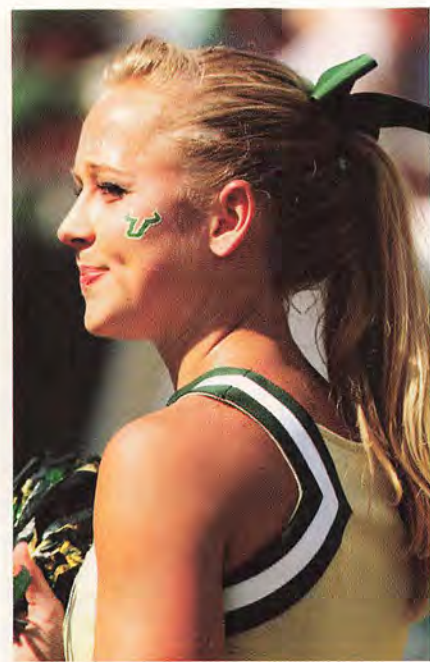
former five-star recruit from Sarasota, should begin to shoulder more of the rushing load now that he has a year's experience under his belt. He was named Big East Offensive Player of the Week following his 140-yard, two-touchdown game against Louisville. The top four receivers are back to help Grothe become an even more proficient passer. Wide receivers Carlton Mitchell, Jessie Hester Jr. and Taurus Johnson teamed up for 106 receptions last fall and had four touchdown catches apiece. In the offensive line, only one starter needs to be replaced.

Linebacker Tyron McKenzie, the leading tackler on last year's team, leads seven returning defensive starters. End George Selvie, who can usually be found wreaking havoc in the opponent's backfield, is the centerpiece of the unit. Nate Allen returns at safety after picking off four passes last year and returning one for a score.

The Bulls will host resurgent Kansas in a Sept. 12 matchup. Pitt and Rutgers also must visit Raymond James Stadium in 2008. The regular-season finale is a trip to Morgantown.

- » **Ball hawks** USF tied for first in the nation (with Cincinnati) in takeaways last season with 42.
- » **Behind the lines** Selvie led the nation in 2007 with 31.5 tackles for a loss, and finished second in sacks with 14.5.
- » **Efficient** The 2007 Bulls ranked eighth in the nation in pass efficiency defense.

SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS 20



PRESEASON TOP 25

Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer has a pair of quarterbacks with complementary styles — Sean Glennon, the dropback passer, and Tyrod Taylor, the dual threat; and he has an offensive line with four returning starters. What he doesn't have is a ball-carrier who has proven himself as an every-down back or a wide receiver who caught more than three passes in game action last year.

Glennon was 143-of-235 for 1,796 yards and 12 touchdowns through the air while sharing the job with Taylor, who was 72-of-134 with five touchdown tosses. Taylor's value lies in his ability to create plays and turn a bad situation into something good. There is a host of candidates for the tailback job, though at the moment Taylor is the best ball-carrier on the team. The most accomplished receivers back from last year are tight ends Sam Wheeler and Greg Boone, with 26 receptions and one touchdown between them. Converted quarterbacks Ike Whitaker and Cory Holt and speedy, athletic Zach Luccett will try to fill the void left by the graduation of the top four wide receivers.

Replacing linebackers Xavier Adibi and Vince Hall and cornerback Brandon Flowers — last year's top three tacklers — is a challenge. But rover Kam Chancellor and linebacker Cam Martin can pick up the slack. Orion Martin racked up 10.5 tackles for a loss and batted down five passes, and is back at end. Cornerback Victor "Macho" Harris, with five interceptions and one returned for a score last year, will slide over into the boundary corner vacated by Flowers.

The Hokies will travel to North Carolina in September then to Boston College and Florida State back-to-back in October. Maryland and Virginia both come calling in Blacksburg in November.

- » **The defenders** As usual, the Hokie defense ranked among the nation's best last year, finishing fifth against the run, fourth overall and third against scoring.
- » **Stopping drives** The Virginia Tech defense also finished fourth nationally in third-down efficiency defense, allowing opponents to convert on only 65 of 223 attempts.
- » **Double digits** Virginia Tech has won 10 or more games in each of the last four seasons.

21 VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES





There was a time not long ago when a five-loss season at Rutgers would have been a cause for celebration. Now that Greg Schiano has established the Scarlet Knights' program as a player on the national stage, last year's 8-5 record was seen as a letdown.

Replacing running back Ray Rice is a tall order. Kordell Young and Mason Robinson are promising sophomores, but neither is proven yet. Mike Teel returns at quarterback after a junior year in which he threw for 3,147 yards and set a school record with 20 touchdown passes. On the other end of Teel's aerials again will be wideouts Tiquan Underwood and Kenny Britt, each of whom surpassed the 1,000-yard receiving mark last fall. They combined for 127 recep-

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

tions, 15 for scores, and both averaged more than 16 yards per catch. Kevin Brock contributed 23 catches from his right end spot.

The offensive line surrendered only 10 sacks last season and paved the way for Rice's amazing season, but three

starters need to be replaced. Sophomore tackle Anthony Davis is the anchor.

End Jamaal Westerman is the mainstay of the defensive line, having broken through opponents' lines for 14 tackles for a loss and eight sacks last year. The team's leading tackler, Courtney Greene, returns to his safety post after notching 101 total stops in 2007. Jason and Devin McCourty return at cornerback. Devin picked off two passes and scored with one; Jason notched a team-high 12 pass breakups.

The 2008 schedule finds the toughest conference competition — West Virginia, Pittsburgh and South Florida — all hosting Rutgers at their places. The Louisville game is at Rutgers on Thursday, Dec. 4.

22

- » **Yards and more yards** The 2007 Scarlet Knights became the first team in NCAA history with a 3,000-yard passer, a 2,000-yard rusher and two 1,000-yard receivers all in the same season.
- » **Conference first** With 2,012 yards for the year, Rice became the first player in Big East history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season.
- » **No fly zone** The Scarlet Knights finished 2007 ranked fifth in the nation in pass defense, giving up just 170.6 yards per game.

PRESEASON TOP 25

Penn State came in fifth in the Big Ten last season at 4-4 despite a 9-4 overall record. Coach Joe Paterno, ranked second to Florida State's Bobby Bowden among active FBS coaches with 372 wins to Bowden's 373, welcomes back eight starters on offense. But tailback Rodney Kinlaw, who ran for 1,329 yards in 2007, and quarterback Anthony Morelli aren't among them.

At quarterback, Daryll Clark has the experience — he is 20-of-36 for his career — and the verve. He came off the bench to run for 50 yards, including an 11-yard touchdown burst, and spark the Lions to a 24-17 Alamo Bowl win over Texas A&M. The other candidate is former *Parade* All-American Pat Devlin, a drop-back passer with two years in the system and little experience. Clark should get the nod to start the season.

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

The new tailback is sophomore Evan Royster, who scored the game-winning touchdown against Texas A&M on a 38-yard run, and posted a 6.3-yard average on 82 carries for the season. The offensive line, with five starters back and honors candidates in guard Rich Ohrnberger and center A.Q. Shipley, will clear the way. Derrick Williams, Deon Butler and Jordan Norwood are among the most productive pass-catchers in school history, and all are back for 2008. Last season, Williams led the team with 55 catches, Butler had a team-high 633 receiving yards, and Norwood led with five touchdown grabs.

All-America linebacker Dan Connor must be replaced, and Sean Lee, whose 138 tackles last season trailed only Connor's 145, was lost for the year with a knee injury in the spring. End Maurice Evans is an All-American who registered 21.5 tackles for a loss and 12.5 sacks last fall. Anthony Scirrotto is back at strong safety with 10 career interceptions to his credit.

The Nittany Lions will face eight 2007 bowl teams in 2008. They will host Illinois, Michigan and Michigan State in Beaver Stadium, but must travel to Wisconsin and Ohio State.

» **Happy holidays** Penn State's 67.5 bowl winning percentage is second-best nationally among teams with at least 10 bowl victories.

» **Half a thousand** The 2007 Alamo Bowl was Paterno's 500th game as Penn State's head coach.

» **Go for it** The 2007 Nittany Lions finished second in the nation in fourth-down conversions, turning 11 of 14 attempts into first downs.



Rutgers: Bruce Schwartzman, Penn State: Bill Wood, Wake Forest: Brian Elmer, Fresno State: Larry Smith



Wake Forest is enjoying the most successful period of its football history, and all the credit goes to its coach. Jim Grobe has instilled a disciplined, blue-collar approach to the game into his program and it has resulted in 20 wins over the last two years.

Grobe's field general is Riley Skinner, proud owner of school records for completion percentage in a season (NCAA-high 72.4 percent last fall) and career (69.5 percent in his first two years). Skinner will be looking for some new targets this year, with Kenny Moore and tight end John Tereshinski no longer around. Chip Brinkman, a nine-game starter with 27 catches on the year, and Demir Boldin are situated atop the depth chart. Jordan Williams, the only true freshman to play for Wake last year, posted a team-high 15.7-yard average and caught a

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

62-yard TD pass from Skinner in the NC State game. He will have a regular spot in the rotation.

Grobe's offense works best when the running game is clicking, and Josh Adams, who ran for 953 yards and 11 touchdowns last fall, is back at tailback. The offensive line requires some rebuilding, but guard Barrett McMillin and tackles Joe Birdsong and Jeff Griffin are proven performers.

Nine starters are back on defense, including the top five tacklers. Leading tackler Chip Vaughn (106 total stops) is back at strong safety. Cornerback Alphonso Smith tied for first in the nation with eight interceptions and ran three back for scores. Linebacker Aaron Curry also scored three times on interception returns and notched 99 tackles, including 13.5 for a loss.

The Deacs open their 2008 conference slate at Florida State on Sept. 20, following an open date. The Clemson game at Wake on Oct. 9 could have major ACC repercussions.

- » **Getting to be a habit** The Demon Deacons have been to bowl games in back-to-back seasons for the first time in school history.
- » **Reliable Riley** In only two seasons Skinner has tied a school record with 18 wins by a starting quarterback.
- » **They've arrived** Wake Forest is one of only 18 teams in the FBS to have won 20 games over the last two seasons.

PRESEASON **TOP 25**

If there is a BCS buster to look for in 2008 (and if BYU isn't it), it's probably going to be Fresno State. The Bulldogs are coming off a 9-4 season with a 40-28 Humanitarian Bowl win over Georgia Tech to propel them into 2008. Reigning Humanitarian Bowl MVP Tom Brandstater returns for his senior year at quarterback. He completed 63 percent of his passes last year for 2,654 yards and

FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

15 touchdowns, ran for three more scores and managed coach Pat Hill's offense flawlessly.

Brandstater's favorite targets also return in wide receiver Marlon Moore and tight end Bear Pascoe. They caught 93 passes, nine for touchdowns, between them in 2007. Ryan Matthews turned in a huge freshman season with a team-high 866 rushing yards, averaging six yards per carry and scoring 14 touchdowns. Lonyae Miller, the starter, ran for 609 yards and seven scores. And with three starters back up front, 2008 should bring more of the same.

On the other side of the ball, the Bulldogs must replace WAC Defensive MVP Marcus Riley at linebacker, and team sack leader Tyler Clutts. The unit will be rebuilt around linebacker Ben Jacobs and three returning starters in the secondary. Tackle Jon Monga also returns after breaking through for 11 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks last fall. Junior A.J. Jefferson is dangerous in the return game.

The 2008 Bulldogs will tackle a brutal slate — but what's new? Fresno plays at Rutgers, hosts Wisconsin and travels to UCLA all in the month of September. The WAC title could be settled on Nov. 28 when the Bulldogs visit Boise State.



» **Smart decisions** Brandstater threw just five interceptions all year, fewest by a Fresno State quarterback since Billy Volek's three in 1999.

» **Young upstart** Matthews averaged 6.0 yards per carry as a freshman. He led the Bulldogs with 866 yards on the ground.

» **Going the distance** Jefferson led the nation last year with a 35.8-yard average on 26 kickoff returns.

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Often times college football fans and the media become so enthralled with touchdown passes, elusive runs, ferocious tackles and quarterback sacks that we lose sight of other important aspects of college athletics. The Golden Arm Award, presented annually to the top senior quarterback by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Foundation, encapsulates all that is positive in college sports. The award acknowledges performance on the field for sure. But it goes beyond completion percentage and touchdown strikes. The award values character, citizenship, integrity and those who honor the game.

"The winner of the Golden Arm Award is recognized not only for his athletic accomplishments, but also for his character, citizenship, scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, and athletic abilities," says John Unitas, Jr., President of the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award bears the name of the man many refer to as the finest quarterback ever to play the game of football.

In addition to honoring a player with the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc., has awarded more than \$550,000 in scholarships to deserving scholar-athletes from local area high schools both in Maryland and Kentucky.

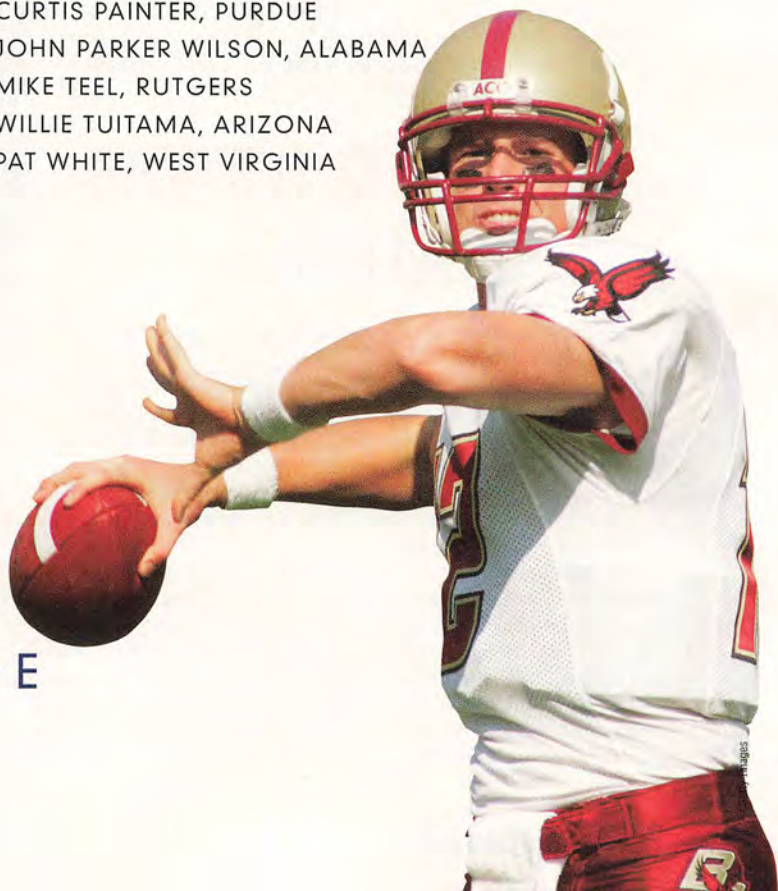
"Despite my Dad's outstanding accomplishments, he never forgot his humble beginnings, and this won him a permanent place in the hearts of all who ever knew him," notes Unitas, Jr. "Giving life to his commitment to 'give back,' the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc., was established to promote football on all levels by providing financial aid to deserving young athletes."

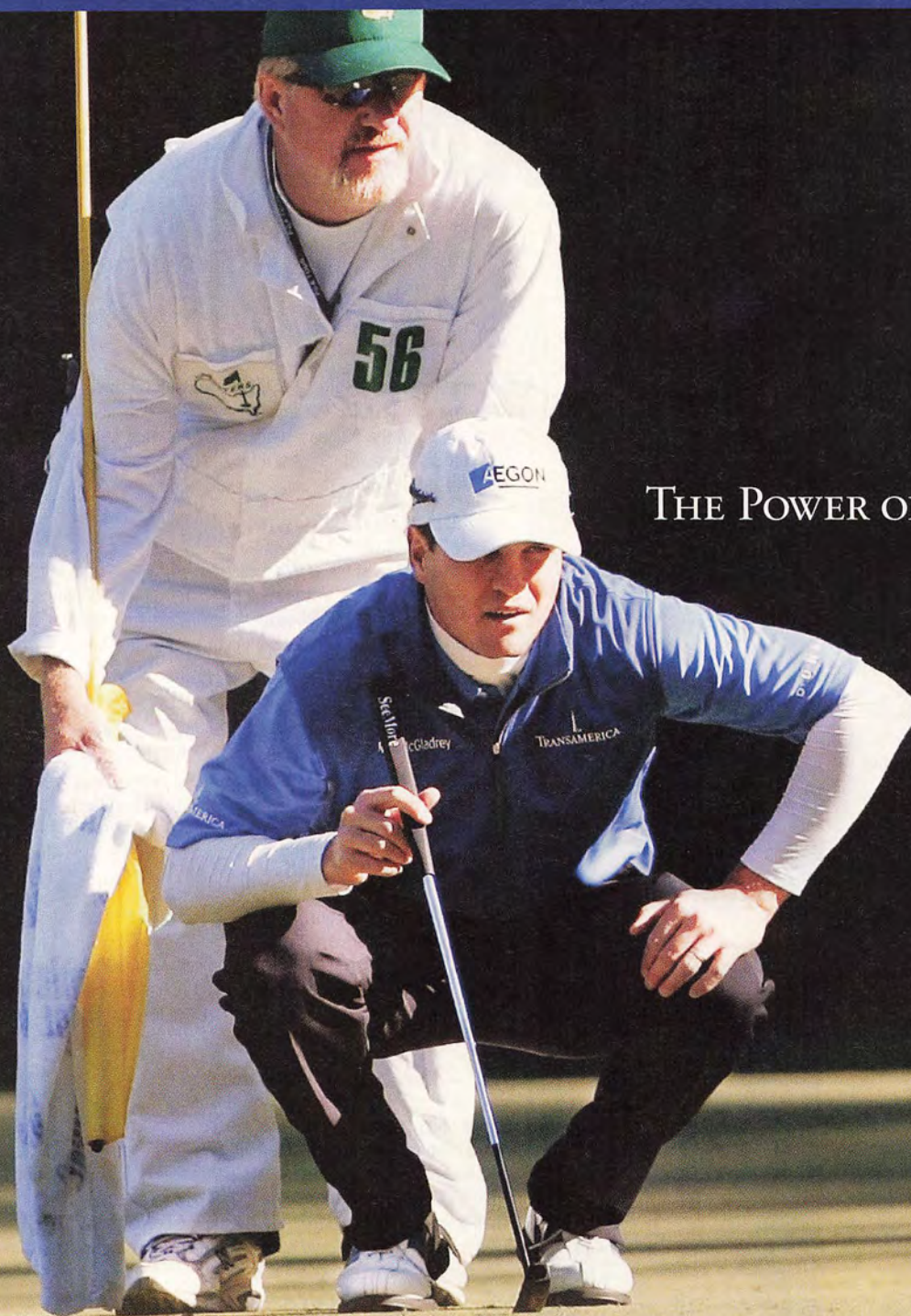
2007 WINNER

MATT RYAN
BOSTON COLLEGE

TOP SENIOR QUARTERBACKS FOR 2008

C.J. BACHÉR, NORTHWESTERN
TODD BOECKMAN, OHIO STATE
TOM BRANDSTATER, FRESNO STATE
HUNTER CANTWELL, LOUISVILLE
RUDY CARPENTER, ARIZONA STATE
CHASE CLEMENT, RICE
CHASE DANIEL, MISSOURI
JOE GANZ, NEBRASKA
CULLEN HARPER, CLEMSON
GRAHAM HARRELL, TEXAS TECH
CHASE HOLBROOK, NEW MEXICO STATE
BRIAN HOYER, MICHIGAN STATE
BRIAN JOHNSON, UTAH
TYLER LORENZEN, CONNECTICUT
STEPHEN MCGEE, TEXAS A&M
CURTIS PAINTER, PURDUE
JOHN PARKER WILSON, ALABAMA
MIKE TEEL, RUTGERS
WILLIE TUITAMA, ARIZONA
PAT WHITE, WEST VIRGINIA





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PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB **TIM TEBOW, FLORIDA** 6'3" 232 JUNIOR

The first sophomore ever to win the Heisman Trophy, Tebow started all 13 games and accounted for 55 touchdowns — 32 through the air and 23 on the ground. He led the Gators in rushing with 895 yards, amassed 4,181 yards of total offense, and became the first player in NCAA history to run and throw for 20 or more touchdowns each in the same season.

RB **KNOWSHON MORENO, GEORGIA** 5'11" 207 SOPHOMORE

The SEC's reigning Freshman of the Year and a consensus 2007 all-conference selection, Moreno ran over, around and through opposing defenses to the tune of 1,334 yards. The New Jersey import averaged 103 rushing yards per game and 5.4 per carry, scored 14 touchdowns and added 20 pass receptions to the Bulldog cause.

RB **CHRIS WELLS, OHIO STATE** 6'1" 237 JUNIOR

Wells was a bright spot in the BCS Championship game with 146 rushing yards and a 65-yard run in the contest. The 2007 Buckeyes' Most Valuable Player, Wells ran for a school sophomore record 1,609 yards and 15 touchdowns for the year, averaging just under six yards per carry and eclipsing the century mark in nine separate games.

WR **MICHAEL CRABTREE, TEXAS TECH** 6'3" 208 SOPHOMORE

Crabtree won the 2007 Biletnikoff Award after leading the nation and setting NCAA freshman records with 134 receptions, 1,962 receiving yards and 22 TD catches. He was the Big 12's co-Freshman of the Year and a unanimous first-team All-American.

WR **PERCY HARVIN, FLORIDA** 5'11" 178 JUNIOR

In his two years as a Gator, Harvin has rushed for 1,192 yards — not bad for a wide receiver. He sports a 9.6-yard career rushing average with nine TDs. He has caught 93 passes for 1,285 yards and six more scores. As a sophomore last season, the double-threat from Virginia Beach averaged 14.5 yards on 59 catches.

TE **TRAVIS BECKUM, WISCONSIN** 6'4" 223 SENIOR

After spending his freshman year as a backup on defense and on special teams, Beckum has made a splash at tight end over the last two seasons. As a 2007 All-American, Beckum caught 75 passes — 45 more than anybody else on the team. His 982 receiving yards last fall topped the nation's tight ends.



MICHAEL CRABTREE



TRAVIS BECKUM

OL **ANTHONY PARKER, TENNESSEE** 6'3" 300 SENIOR

A consensus first-team All-SEC honoree and second-team AP All-American in 2007, Parker returns for his final season as the spearhead of the Tennessee offensive line. Last season, he started 13 games at left guard for the Big Orange O-Line that led the nation with just four sacks allowed.

OL **DUKE ROBINSON, OKLAHOMA** 6'5" 330 SENIOR

Over the course of his starting career, the 2007 AP and AFCA first-team All-American has registered more than 200 knock-down blocks, including highs of 13 against Miami last year. He graded out at 85 percent as a blocker for the season.

OL **ANDRE SMITH, ALABAMA** 6'5" 340 JUNIOR

Smith is a 340-pound load who has been entrenched as the starter at the crucial left tackle position for the Tide since the day he first enrolled in school as a 2006 freshman. Last year, he landed on the All-SEC first team and captured the Jacobs Blocking Trophy as the conference's best offensive lineman.

OL **RYAN STANCHEK, WEST VIRGINIA** 6'4" 300 SENIOR

Stanchek enters his fourth season as a regular. He was a Freshman All-American in 2005, second-team All-Big East in '06, and FWAA first-team All-America in '07. He had 103 knock-down blocks on a 2007 line that paved the way for almost 300 rushing yards per game and facilitated 1,000-yard seasons for both Patrick White and Steve Slaton.

C **JONATHAN LUIGS, ARKANSAS** 6'4" 314 SENIOR

Luigs spearheaded the line that cleared the way for two 1,000-yard rushers — Darren McFadden and Felix Jones. He actually graded higher on passing plays (96.9 percent) than on running plays (86.1 percent), grading out at 90.4 percent overall. He has been a consensus first-team All-SEC choice the last two years, won the Rimington Award last season as a junior and now enters his fourth year as a starter.

K **THOMAS WEBER, ARIZONA STATE** 6'1" 205 SOPHOMORE

Weber, the 2007 Groza Award winner as the nation's best kicker, set a school record by connecting on 17 straight field goals over the first nine games of the season. He missed only one of his 25 attempts all year and landed on the All-Pac 10 and AP All-America first teams.

P **KEVIN HUBER, CINCINNATI** 6'2" 224 SENIOR

Huber led the nation in 2007 with a 46.9-yard average on 57 punts. On 26 of his boots (34 percent) he nailed Bearcat opponents inside their own 20, and not one was blocked. Huber ended up on the All-Big East first team, and also was first-team AP All-America.

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DT **TERRILL BYRD, CINCINNATI**

6'0" 271 SENIOR

Two years ago, Byrd registered 8.5 tackles behind the line. Last season, he doubled that number, coming away with a team-high 17, including 15 solos, for minus-77 yards. He also posted eight sacks from his inside position, seven of the solo variety, for 56 yards in losses. Byrd is a two-time first-team All-Big East honoree, and last year he landed on the AP All-America second-team.

DT **GERALD MCCOY, OKLAHOMA**

6'4" 289 SOPHOMORE

That stubborn clog in the middle of the Oklahoma defensive front, McCoy racked up 6.5 tackles for a loss and a pair of sacks in 2007. He logged two tackles behind the line, a sack and a quarterback hurry in OU's regular-season win over Missouri, and added two more tackles for a loss and a sack against Texas A&M.

DE **MAURICE EVANS, PENN STATE**

6'2" 264 JUNIOR

Evans is a consensus first-team All-Big Ten returnee. Among his 54 total stops last fall were 21.5 for 117 yards in losses. He also registered 12.5 sacks for the year. In the win at Indiana, Evans racked up 4.5 tackles for a loss with 3.5 sacks and forced two fumbles, one of which he returned 55 yards to set up a field goal. He forced two fumbles in the Alamo Bowl win over Texas A&M.

DE **GEORGE SELVIE, USC**

6'4" 242 JUNIOR

Selvie has accumulated eye-popping numbers: 46.5 tackles for a loss, 20 sacks, 22 quarterback hurries and seven forced fumbles over just the last two years. He led the nation last fall with 31.5 tackles behind the line, establishing a Big East record, and came in second nationally with 14.5 sacks. Selvie was named the Big East Defensive Player of the Year and was a consensus first-team All-America.

LB **JAMES LAURINAITIS, OHIO STATE**

6'3" 240 SENIOR

In 2006, Laurinaitis won the Nagurski Award as the nation's top defensive player. Last year, he added the Butkus Award as the nation's best linebacker. He was also the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and a consensus All-American. Last year, he totaled 121 stops, with 8.5 of them for losses and five sacks. He also picked off two passes.

LB **REY MAUALUGA, USC**

6'3" 250 SENIOR

Maualuga drops into coverage better than the average 250-pounder, as his three career interceptions attest. He has 194 career tackles and has batted down eight pass attempts. He had 10.5 tackles behind the line, including six sacks, in 2007, and is a two-time first-team All-Pac-10 selection.



MAURICE EVANS



TAYLOR MAYS



JAMES LAURINAITIS

ALL-AMERICA

LB **SCOTT MCKILLOP, PITTSBURGH**

6'2" 240 SENIOR

McKillop led the nation in total tackles with 12.6 per game and finished second in solos with 8.2. Of his 151 total stops, nine were for losses totaling 31 yards. Of all the plays McKillop made last fall, none was bigger than the stop he made on West Virginia's Steve Slaton on 4th-and-3 late in the fourth quarter, blunting a Mountaineer drive and securing the Panthers' memorable 13-9 victory to close the season. McKillop was on the All-Big East first team and AP All-America third team.

CB **MIKE MICKENS, CINCINNATI**

6'0" 170 SENIOR

Mickens was selected to the Football Writers Association of America All-America team as well as first-team All-Big East in 2007 after a season in which he collected 53 tackles and six interceptions from his cornerback post. He ran two of his picks back for touchdowns, including a 79-yard streak up the sideline at then No. 20 USF. He has been a starter all three years in Cincinnati.

CB **ALPHONSO SMITH, WAKE FOREST**

5'9" 191 SENIOR

Smith tied for first nationally in 2007 with eight interceptions, and he ran three back for touchdowns. In two separate games, he picked off passes on the opponents' first play from scrimmage. On one of those occasions the opponent was Boston College's Matt Ryan, and he scored on that one from 21 yards out. Smith snagged end zone interceptions against Florida State and NC State, and for good measure, he led the ACC in both passes defended with 18 and fumbles forced with four.

S **PATRICK CHUNG, OREGON**

6'0" 210 SENIOR

Chung finished his debut season of 2005 as the team's second-leading tackler with 58 total stops and was chosen the Pac-10's Freshman of the Year. He registered half of his eight career INTs in 2006, when he also ran a punt back for a touchdown. Last season, he made first-team All-Pac-10 and second-team AP All-America by leading the Ducks in tackles with 117, including 7.5 for a loss, and added two picks and seven pass breakups.

S **TAYLOR MAYS, USC**

6'4" 225 JUNIOR

Mays moved into the lineup at free safety during the first game of his freshman season and has not relinquished the assignment. Mays' 65 total stops in 2007 ranked third on the team, and he posted a career-best 12 in the Oregon game. He has registered 127 tackles, four interceptions and nine pass breakups his first two seasons, and he has received All-America mention both years.

KR **A.J. JEFFERSON, FRESNO STATE**

6'1" 190 JUNIOR

Jefferson holds Fresno State's single-season and career records with two kickoff returns for touchdowns. He led the nation in with a 35.8-yard average on 26 runbacks and was named WAC Special Teams Player of the Week three times in 2007.

PR **JEREMY MACLIN, MISSOURI**

6'1" 200 SOPHOMORE

Maclin was named first-team all-purpose back on both the All-Big 12 and AP All-America teams, leading the conference and finishing seventh nationally with 198 yards per game. He averaged 12.3 yards per punt return and brought two back all the way.

PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

SECOND TEAM

QUARTERBACK

Chase Daniel 6'0" 225 Sr. Missouri

RUNNING BACKS

Noel Devine 5'8" 170 So. West Virginia
Damion Fletcher 5'10" 175 Jr. Southern Miss

WIDE RECEIVERS

Aaron Kelly 6'5" 190 Sr. Clemson
Jeremy Maclin 6'1" 200 So. Missouri

TIGHT END

Chase Coffman 6'6" 245 Sr. Missouri

THIRD TEAM

QUARTERBACK

Patrick White 6'2" 185 Sr. West Virginia

RUNNING BACKS

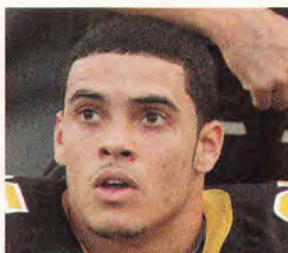
LeSean McCoy 5'11" 210 So. Pittsburgh
Javon Ringer 5'9" 200 Sr. Michigan State

WIDE RECEIVERS

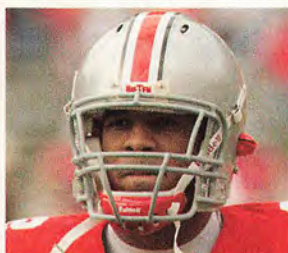
Arrelious Benn 6'2" 214 So. Illinois
Brandon Gibson 6'1" 202 Sr. Washington State

TIGHT END

Darius Hill 6'6" 236 Sr. Ball State



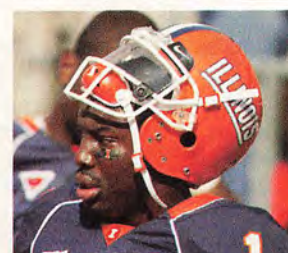
DAMION FLETCHER



MALCOLM JENKINS



LESEAN MCCOY



VONTAE DAVIS

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Ciron Black 6'5" 314 Jr. LSU
Jeff Byers 6'4" 285 Sr. USC
Michael Oher 6'5" 318 Sr. Ole Miss
Louis Vasquez 6'6" 335 Sr. Texas Tech
C Alex Mack 6'5" 316 Sr. California

DEFENSIVE ENDS

Tyson Jackson 6'5" 292 Sr. LSU
Greg Middleton 6'3" 275 Jr. Indiana

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Mitch King 6'3" 264 Sr. Iowa
Vance Walker 6'2" 293 Sr. Georgia Tech

LINEBACKERS

Darry Beckwith 6'1" 232 Sr. LSU
Joe Mortensen 6'1" 250 Sr. Kansas
Brandon Spikes 6'3" 245 Jr. Florida

CORNERBACKS

Victor Harris 6'0" 192 Sr. Virginia Tech
Malcolm Jenkins 6'1" 201 Sr. Ohio State

SAFETIES

Eric Berry 5'11" 195 So. Tennessee
William Moore 6'1" 230 Sr. Missouri

SPECIALISTS

K Austin Starr 6'3" 204 Sr. Indiana
P Louie Sakoda 5'10" 178 Sr. Utah
KR Marcus Herford 6'3" 208 Sr. Kansas
PR Brandon James 5'6" 179 Jr. Florida

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Alex Boone 6'8" 312 Sr. Ohio State
Ray Feinga 6'5" 331 Sr. BYU
Andrew Gardner 6'6" 297 Sr. Georgia Tech
Greg Isdander 6'4" 315 Jr. West Virginia
C Max Unger 6'5" 300 Sr. Oregon

DEFENSIVE ENDS

Greg Hardy 6'4" 265 Jr. Ole Miss
Nick Reed 6'2" 255 Sr. Oregon

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Geno Atkins 6'1" 290 Jr. Georgia
George Hypolite 6'1" 285 Sr. Colorado

LINEBACKERS

Brian Cushing 6'4" 240 Sr. USC
Adam Leonard 6'0" 235 Sr. Hawaii
Clayton Mullins 6'2" 235 Sr. Miami (Ohio)

CORNERBACKS

Vontae Davis 6'0" 204 Jr. Illinois
D.J. Moore 5'10" 182 Jr. Vanderbilt

SAFETIES

Nic Harris 6'3" 226 Sr. Oklahoma
Derek Pegues 5'10" 196 Sr. Mississippi State

SPECIALISTS

K Jeff Wolfert 6'2" 185 Sr. Missouri
P Chris Miller 6'2" 211 Sr. Ball State
KR David Gilreath 5'11" 154 So. Wisconsin
PR Joe Burnett 5'11" 185 SR UCF

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ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOSTON COLLEGE	8	11	3	6	1	3	12
CLEMSON	1	1	1	11	2	10	1
DUKE	5	10	5	12	5	7	11
FLORIDA STATE	4	5	2	4	4	5	3
GEORGIA TECH	10	6	12	10	3	11	10
MARYLAND	7	9	6	1	11	4	9
MIAMI	12	2	9	7	8	6	6
NORTH CAROLINA	6	8	4	3	10	8	4
NORTH CAROLINA STATE	9	4	8	5	6	12	7
VIRGINIA	11	7	7	9	12	1	8
VIRGINIA TECH	3	12	11	2	9	9	5
WAKE FOREST	2	3	10	8	7	2	2



VIRGINIA LB ANTONIO APPLEBY

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BAYLOR	10	12	7	9	9	10	12
COLORADO	11	9	9	10	6	5	9
IOWA STATE	12	7	11	12	11	9	5
KANSAS	3	4	4	4	3	1	1
KANSAS STATE	9	11	10	8	5	6	8
MISSOURI	1	6	1	6	4	2	7
NEBRASKA	8	3	8	5	7	8	6
OKLAHOMA	2	1	3	1	1	4	4
OKLAHOMA STATE	7	8	6	7	12	11	11
TEXAS	5	5	5	2	2	3	10
TEXAS A&M	6	2	12	11	10	12	3
TEXAS TECH	4	10	2	3	8	7	2



OKLAHOMA DT DeMARCUS GRANGER

BIG EAST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
CINCINNATI	6	8	2	7	4	5	1
CONNECTICUT	5	4	8	5	2	4	3
LOUISVILLE	4	5	7	2	3	6	5
PITTSBURGH	8	2	3	6	5	3	7
RUTGERS	3	7	1	3	6	7	2
SOUTH FLORIDA	2	3	4	4	1	2	4
SYRACUSE	7	6	5	8	8	8	8
WEST VIRGINIA	1	1	6	1	7	1	6

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ILLINOIS	2	8	4	4	2	3	4
INDIANA	4	10	8	7	9	6	5
IOWA	8	11	3	6	5	5	8
MICHIGAN	11	7	10	9	4	7	3
MICHIGAN STATE	7	3	11	8	11	9	6
MINNESOTA	6	9	7	11	10	10	11
NORTHWESTERN	3	6	5	10	8	11	10
OHIO STATE	1	2	1	1	3	1	1
PENN STATE	10	5	2	3	1	4	2
PURDUE	5	4	9	5	7	8	7
WISCONSIN	9	1	6	2	6	2	9



WISCONSIN RB ZACH BROWN

CONFERENCE USA

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	6	8	11	3	1	3	4
HOUSTON	1	7	7	2	3	8	2
MARSHALL	10	3	5	7	10	5	3
MEMPHIS	7	10	2	8	5	7	9
RICE	2	9	3	10	6	11	7
SMU	5	5	8	12	11	12	11
SOUTHERN MISS	9	2	9	4	7	1	5
TULANE	11	11	10	9	12	6	12
TULSA	4	1	1	1	4	10	8
UAB	12	12	12	11	9	4	10
UCF	8	6	6	6	2	2	1
UTEP	3	4	4	5	8	9	6



SOUTHERN MISS LB GERALD McRATH

MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AKRON	11	7	11	7	5	7	13
BALL STATE	2	10	2	1	12	4	5
BOWLING GREEN	3	9	5	12	4	6	2
BUFFALO	5	5	7	5	10	13	3
CENTRAL MICHIGAN	1	1	1	2	9	10	10
EASTERN MICHIGAN	10	11	12	9	11	5	11
KENT STATE	8	3	13	3	3	3	12
MIAMI	7	12	6	6	2	1	4
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	9	6	9	13	7	11	8
OHIO	12	8	8	11	8	9	9
TOLEDO	6	4	3	4	13	12	6
TEMPLE	13	13	10	10	1	2	7
WESTERN MICHIGAN	4	2	4	8	6	8	1



UNLV WR CASEY FLAIR

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
AIR FORCE	7	8	6	6	2	9	9
BYU	1	1	2	2	4	4	7
COLORADO STATE	9	4	9	3	8	3	4
NEW MEXICO	3	2	8	9	7	6	1
SAN DIEGO STATE	8	9	7	8	9	5	5
TCU	4	5	4	5	3	1	3
UNLV	6	6	1	4	6	8	8
UTAH	2	3	3	1	5	7	2
WYOMING	5	7	5	7	1	2	6

Appley: Bruce Schwartzman; Granger: Layne Murdoch; Brower: Brian Ebner; McRath: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Flair: Peter Brouillet

PAC-10 CONFERENCE

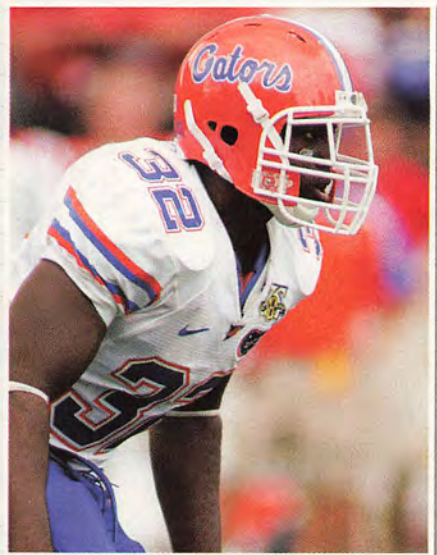
	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARIZONA	3	5	1	5	6	8	8
ARIZONA STATE	2	2	2	7	2	4	4
CALIFORNIA	5	4	9	6	8	2	7
OREGON	9	3	5	8	1	7	2
OREGON STATE	8	10	4	1	7	9	3
STANFORD	7	8	7	2	4	3	5
UCLA	6	6	8	10	5	5	6
USC	4	1	3	4	3	1	1
WASHINGTON	1	9	10	3	9	10	10
WASHINGTON STATE	10	7	6	9	10	6	9



OREGON STATE OL RYAN POHL

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	4	8	7	3	7	7	10
ARKANSAS	8	9	12	6	4	10	12
AUBURN	5	3	8	5	6	6	6
FLORIDA	1	5	1	4	5	1	4
GEORGIA	2	1	5	7	2	3	9
KENTUCKY	10	7	10	9	8	12	7
LSU	12	6	2	1	1	4	8
MISSISSIPPI STATE	9	4	11	11	10	8	1
OLE MISS	6	11	6	8	9	9	11
SOUTH CAROLINA	7	10	4	10	11	2	3
TENNESSEE	3	2	3	2	3	5	2
VANDERBILT	11	12	9	12	12	11	5



FLORIDA LB DUSTIN DOE

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ARKANSAS STATE	3	2	5	8	2	4	7
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	1	3	1	4	5	3	4
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	7	8	8	5	6	7	5
MIDDLE TENNESSEE	4	5	7	6	3	2	3
NORTH TEXAS	5	7	2	7	7	8	6
UL LAFAYETTE	2	1	6	2	8	1	8
UL MONROE	6	4	4	3	4	5	2
TROY	8	6	3	1	1	6	1



BOISE STATE WR JEREMY CHILDS

WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
BOISE STATE	5	1	1	8	6	4	2
FRESNO STATE	1	2	3	1	1	5	1
HAWAII	4	8	8	3	5	1	8
IDAHO	6	4	9	4	8	9	7
LOUISIANA TECH	8	5	6	6	7	6	5
NEVADA	2	3	5	2	4	3	9
NEW MEXICO STATE	3	9	2	9	9	7	3
SAN JOSE STATE	9	7	4	7	2	8	6
UTAH STATE	7	6	7	5	3	2	4

Pohl: Craig Mitchell/lyer; Doe: Al Kooistra; Childs: Ric Fogel

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RECRUITING

BY CONFERENCE

ACC RANKINGS

1. MIAMI	5. NC STATE	9. GEORGIA TECH
2. CLEMSON	6. BOSTON COLLEGE	10. VIRGINIA
3. FLORIDA STATE	7. NORTH CAROLINA	11. WAKE FOREST
4. VIRGINIA TECH	8. MARYLAND	12. DUKE

1. DaQuan Bowers (#4)	DE	6'5"	265	Bamberg, SC	Clemson
2. Arthur Brown (#7)	LB	6'2"	230	Wichita, KS	Miami
3. Marcus Forston (#11)	DT	6'2"	309	Miami, FL	Miami
4. Nigel Bradham (#14)	LB	6'2"	227	Crawfordville, FL	Florida State
5. E.J. Manuel (#21)	QB	6'4"	201	Virginia Beach, VA	Florida State
6. Aldarius Johnson (#30)	WR	6'2"	217	Miami, FL	Miami
7. Ryan Williams (#38)	RB	5'10"	200	Manassas, VA	Virginia Tech
8. Brandon Harris (#47)	CB	5'10"	185	Miami, FL	Miami
9. Jamie Harper (#49)	RB	6'0"	227	Jacksonville, FL	Clemson
10. Mike Glennon (#50)	QB	6'6"	195	Centreville, VA	NC State
11. Nigel Carr (#59)	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
12. Ramon Buchanan (#66)	ATH	6'1"	181	Melbourne, FL	Miami
13. Marcus Robinson (#73)	LB	6'2"	210	Homestead, FL	Miami
14. Brandon Thompson (#81)	DT	6'2"	291	Thomasville, GA	Clemson
15. Jordan Futch (#86)	S/LB	6'3"	202	Hollywood, FL	Miami
16. Sean Spence (#88)	S/LB	6'0"	202	Miami, FL	Miami
17. Antoine McClain (#93)	OL	6'6"	305	Anniston, AL	Clemson
18. Brandon Barnes (#98)	ATH	6'0"	180	Bunn, NC	NC State
19. Spencer Adams	S	6'2"	180	Matthews, NC	Clemson
20. Winston Painter	OL	6'5"	300	Norfolk, VA	Virginia Tech

BIG TEN RANKINGS

1. OHIO STATE	5. WISCONSIN	9. PURDUE
2. MICHIGAN	6. PENN STATE	10. INDIANA
3. MINNESOTA	7. MICHIGAN STATE	11. NORTHWESTERN
4. ILLINOIS	8. IOWA	

1. Terrelle Pryor (#1)	QB	6'5"	230	Jeannette, PA	Ohio State
2. Michael Brewster (#12)	OL	6'5"	300	Orlando, FL	Ohio State
3. Mike Adams (#25)	OL	6'8"	310	Dublin, OH	Ohio State
4. Etienne Sabino (#33)	LB	6'3"	230	Sonny Isles, FL	Ohio State
5. DeVier Posey (#39)	WR	6'3"	205	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio State
6. Darryl Stonum (#46)	WR	6'3"	185	Sugar Land, TX	Michigan
7. Boubacar Cissoko (#52)	CB	5'9"	175	Detroit, MI	Michigan
8. J.B. Shugarts (#56)	OL	6'8"	300	Klein, TX	Ohio State
9. Lamaar Thomas (#68)	ATH	5'11"	186	Fort Washington, MD	Ohio State
10. Dann O'Neill (#69)	OL	6'7"	295	Grand Haven, MI	Michigan
11. Jake Stoneburner (#80)	TE	6'6"	225	Dublin, OH	Ohio State
12. Garrett Goebel (#82)	DT	6'5"	280	Villa Park, IL	Ohio State
13. Andrew Sweat (#84)	LB	6'2"	225	Washington, PA	Ohio State
14. Brandon Smith	ATH	6'3"	210	New Brunswick, NJ	Michigan
15. Corey Liuget	DE	6'3"	260	Hialeah, FL	Illinois
16. Brandon Beachum	ATH	5'11"	220	Youngstown, OH	Penn State
17. Michael Mauti	LB	6'1"	225	Mandeville, LA	Penn State
18. Mike Yancich	LB	6'3"	225	Washington, PA	Penn State
19. Mike Zordich	LB	6'2"	225	Youngstown, OH	Penn State
20. Cordale Scott	ATH	6'3"	200	Cleveland, OH	Illinois

BIG EAST RANKINGS

1. PITTSBURGH	4. RUTGERS	7. CINCINNATI
2. WEST VIRGINIA	5. SYRACUSE	8. CONNECTICUT
3. SOUTH FLORIDA	6. LOUISVILLE	

1. Jonathan Baldwin (#16)	WR	6'5"	220	Aliquippa, PA	Pittsburgh
2. Lucas Nix (#35)	OL	6'6"	300	Jefferson Hills, PA	Pittsburgh
3. Shayne Hale (#55)	LB	6'4"	240	Monroeville, PA	Pittsburgh
4. Josh Jenkins (#97)	OL	6'5"	305	Parkersburg, WV	West Virginia
5. Averin Collier	RB	5'10"	200	Churchville, NY	Syracuse
6. Chris Burns	RB	5'11"	190	New Wilmington, PA	Pittsburgh
7. D.C. Jefferson	QB	6'6"	240	Winter Haven, FL	Rutgers
8. Darius Ashley	RB	5'9"	182	Cincinnati, OH	Louisville
9. Art Forst	OL	6'8"	305	Manasquan, NJ	Rutgers
10. Demetris Murray	RB	5'10"	202	Buford, GA	South Florida
11. Scott Vallone	DT	6'3"	260	Central Islip, NY	Rutgers
12. Marcus Sales	WR	6'0"	180	Syracuse, NY	Syracuse
13. Cameron Saddler	RB	5'7"	170	Monroeville, PA	Pittsburgh
14. D.J. Woods	WR	6'0"	170	Strongsville, OH	Cincinnati
15. B.J. Daniels	QB	6'1"	195	Tallahassee, FL	South Florida
16. Jimmy Bennett	OL	6'8"	280	Alexandria, VA	Connecticut
17. Dominique Battle	DB	6'0"	175	Boca Raton, FL	Cincinnati
18. Jarred Holley	ATH	5'10"	170	Easton, PA	Pittsburgh
19. Malcolm Johnson	WR	6'1"	170	Bartow, FL	Rutgers
20. Jerome Swinton	CB	5'9"	160	Daytona Beach, FL	West Virginia

BIG 12 RANKINGS

1. OKLAHOMA	5. MISSOURI	9. KANSAS
2. TEXAS	6. NEBRASKA	10. TEXAS TECH
3. COLORADO	7. OKLAHOMA STATE	11. BAYLOR
4. TEXAS A&M	8. KANSAS STATE	12. IOWA STATE

1. Darrell Scott (#3)	RB	6'2"	215	Oxnard, CA	Colorado
2. Jermie Calhoun (#8)	RB	6'0"	210	Van, TX	Oklahoma
3. R.J. Washington (#10)	DE	6'4"	242	Fort Worth, TX	Oklahoma
4. Stephen Good (#29)	OL	6'5"	305	Paris, TX	Oklahoma
5. Blaine Gabbert (#32)	QB	6'5"	225	Ballwin, MO	Missouri
6. Baker Steinkuhler (#37)	OL	6'6"	290	Lincoln, NE	Nebraska
7. Dan Buckner (#40)	WR	6'4"	213	Austin, TX	Texas
8. Jameel Owens (#45)	WR	6'3"	200	Muskogee, OK	Oklahoma
9. Cyrus Gray (#61)	RB	5'10"	188	DeSoto, TX	Texas A&M
10. Aaron Williams (#62)	DB	6'1"	175	Round Rock, TX	Texas
11. Josh Jarboe (#63)	WR	6'3"	195	Decatur, GA	Oklahoma
12. Jarvis Humphrey (#64)	DT	6'2"	295	Cedar Hill, TX	Texas
13. Jon Major (#65)	LB	6'3"	225	Parker, CO	Colorado
14. Lynn Katoo (#76)	LB	6'2"	220	Salt Lake City, UT	Colorado
15. DeSean Hales (#77)	WR	5'11"	185	Spring, TX	Texas
16. D.J. Monroe (#87)	CB	5'9"	165	Angleton, TX	Texas
17. Justin Johnson (#89)	RB	6'1"	210	Gilmer, TX	Oklahoma
18. Jeff Fuller (#92)	WR	6'4"	206	McKinney, TX	Texas A&M
19. Landry Jones (#100)	QB	6'4"	210	Artesia, NM	Oklahoma
20. D.J. Grant	WR	6'3"	205	Austin, TX	Texas

(#) Reflects ranking in Athlon Consensus 100

CONFERENCE USA RANKINGS

1. SOUTHERN MISS	5. EAST CAROLINA	9. MEMPHIS
2. UCF	6. HOUSTON	10. RICE
3. MARSHALL	7. UTEP	11. TULANE
4. TULSA	8. SMU	12. UAB

1. DeAndre Brown (#17)	WR	6'6"	215	Ocean Springs, MS	Southern Miss
2. Adrian Jones	RB	5'11"	180	Laurinburg, NC	East Carolina
3. Damaris Johnson	ATH	5'8"	170	Norco, LA	Tulsa
4. Bo Tillman	DT	6'6"	305	Meadville, MS	Southern Miss
5. Martin Ward	RB	5'9"	188	Jonesboro, GA	Marshall
6. Bret Jefcoat	QB	6'1"	200	Fulton, MS	Southern Miss
7. Brandon Davis	RB	5'9"	190	Suwanee, GA	UCF
8. Brynn Harvey	RB	5'11"	215	Largo, FL	UCF
9. Ryan Griffin	QB	6'4"	210	Westlake Village, CA	Tulane
10. Chris Martin	DT	6'5"	290	Fort Walton Beach, FL	UCF
11. Anthony Lewis	LB	6'1"	200	Houston, TX	Houston
12. Desmond Johnson	RB	5'11"	190	Yazoo City, MS	Southern Miss
13. John Flanders	DB	5'10"	163	Midwest City, OK	Tulsa
14. Marcal Robinson	CB	6'0"	175	Prichard, AL	Southern Miss
15. Ahmed Shakoar	CB	5'11"	190	Stone Mountain, GA	Marshall
16. Kendrick Presley	S	6'1"	195	Kosciusko, MS	Southern Miss
17. DeAundre Brown	DB	5'11"	181	Arlington, TX	Tulsa
18. Vance King	ATH	6'0"	195	Stockbridge, GA	UCF
19. Steven Robinson	OL	6'3"	305	Tallahassee, FL	UCF
20. Shane Turner	RB	5'9"	170	Houston, TX	Rice

MOUNTAIN WEST RANKINGS

1. BYU	4. UNLV	7. AIR FORCE
2. UTAH	5. COLORADO STATE	8. WYOMING
3. SAN DIEGO STATE	6. TCU	9. NEW MEXICO

1. Austin Holt	TE	6'6"	230	South Jordan, UT	BYU
2. Jake Murphy	WR	6'5"	215	American Fork, UT	BYU
3. Dave Kruger	DT	6'5"	254	Orem, UT	Utah
4. Sausan Shakerin	RB	6'3"	208	Sandy, UT	Utah
5. Chris Scott	DB	5'10"	178	Baton Rouge, LA	TCU
6. Daniel Sorensen	DB	6'2"	195	Colton, CA	BYU
7. Luke Matthews	WR	6'1"	205	Phoenix, AZ	Utah
8. O'Neill Chambers	WR	6'3"	208	Harmony, FL	BYU
9. Jimmy Miller	G	6'3"	290	Denver, CO	San Diego State
10. Phillip Payne	WR	6'3"	185	Las Vegas, NV	UNLV
11. Jonathan Gaye	RB	6'0"	178	Highlands Ranch, CO	Colorado State
12. Sam Brenner	OL	6'3"	280	Oceanside, CA	Utah
13. Adam Barry	QB	6'0"	210	Simi Valley, CA	Wyoming
14. Colin Shumate	ILB	6'2"	225	Las Vegas, NV	San Diego State
15. Joe Caprioglio	OL	6'5"	247	Highlands Ranch, CO	Colorado State
16. Alec Johnson	OL	6'3"	290	Denver, CO	San Diego State
17. Ryan Lacy	ATH	5'10"	183	Antelope, CA	Utah
18. Shiloah Teo	S	5'11"	195	Laie, HI	BYU
19. Derek Tuimauga	OL	6'4"	335	South Jordan, UT	Utah
20. Jeremy Coleman	DE	6'2"	266	Missouri City, TX	TCU

MAC RANKINGS

1. KENT STATE	6. TOLEDO	11. BOWLING GREEN
2. MIAMI	7. OHIO	12. BUFFALO
3. WESTERN MICHIGAN	8. AKRON	13. NORTHERN ILLINOIS
4. TEMPLE	9. BALL STATE	
5. CENTRAL MICHIGAN	10. EASTERN MICHIGAN	

1. Jharron Armstrong	S	6'2"	187	Washington DC	Kent State
2. Sal Battles	ATH	5'10"	221	Youngstown, OH	Kent State
3. Kenny Stafford	WR	6'4"	185	Columbus, OH	Toledo
4. Kelly Page	QB	6'3"	210	Sunnyvale, TX	Ball State
5. Vaughn Carraway	WR	6'2"	170	Laureldale, PA	Temple
6. Josh Pleasant	DB	5'10"	185	Germantown MD	Kent State
7. Muhammad Wilkerson	DT	6'5"	280	Linden, NJ	Temple
8. Jermaine Robinson	DB	6'3"	195	Pittsburgh, PA	Toledo
9. Jahleel Addae	RB	5'9"	176	Valrico, FL	Central Michigan
10. Joe Patchuta	OL	6'7"	290	New Concord OH	Akron
11. Zac Dysert	QB	6'4"	195	Ada, OH	Miami
12. Bakari Bussey	WR	6'2"	187	West Chester, OH	Ohio
13. Logan Pegram	OL	6'3"	298	Silver Lake, KS	Northern Illinois
14. Kevin Galeher	OL	6'5"	295	Evergreen Park IL	Western Michigan
15. Phillip Barnett	WR	6'1"	175	Middletown, OH	Toledo
16. Juandez Brown	QB	6'3"	190	Cincinnati, OH	Eastern Michigan
17. Evan Klepec	DL	6'4"	245	Canfield, OH	Miami
18. Tremayne Scott	DE	6'3"	227	Ocala, FL	Ohio
19. Briggs Orsbon	Ath	6'0"	185	Convoy, OH	Ball State
20. Trey Bishop III	DE	6'4"	247	Inkster, MI	Western Michigan

PAC-10 RANKINGS

1. USC	5. ARIZONA STATE	9. OREGON STATE
2. UCLA	6. CALIFORNIA	10. WASHINGTON STATE
3. OREGON	7. ARIZONA	
4. WASHINGTON	8. STANFORD	

1. Blake Ayles (#15)	TE	6'5"	255	Orange, CA	USC
2. Matt Kalil (#18)	OL	6'6"	290	Corona, CA	USC
3. Tyron Smith (#27)	OL	6'6"	270	Moreno Valley, CA	USC
4. T.J. Bryant (#28)	DB	6'1"	190	Tallahassee, FL	USC
5. D.J. Shoemate (#34)	WR	6'0"	220	Mira Loma, FL	USC
6. Andrew Luck (#43)	QB	6'4"	215	Houston, TX	Stanford
7. Kavario Middleton (#44)	TE	6'5"	255	Lakewood, WA	Washington
8. Brice Butler (#48)	WR	6'3"	215	Norcross, GA	USC
9. Rahim Moore (#51)	S	6'2"	185	Los Angeles, CA	UCLA
10. Aundre Dean (#54)	RB	6'1"	210	Katy, TX	UCLA
11. Gerell Robinson (#79)	WR	6'4"	210	Phoenix, AZ	Arizona State
12. Matt Meyer (#83)	OL	6'8"	295	Stockton, CA	USC
13. Nick Perry (#95)	DE	6'3"	240	Detroit, MI	USC
14. Robert Golden (#96)	CB	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	Arizona
15. Aaron Hester (#99)	CB	6'0"	180	Compton, CA	UCLA
16. Uona Kaveinga	LB	6'1"	235	Hawthorne, CA	USC
17. E.J. Woods	DB	6'1"	200	Culver City, CA	UCLA
18. Nick Crissman	QB	6'3"	193	Huntington Beach, CA	UCLA
19. Solomon Koehler	DT	6'3"	305	Kaneohe, HI	Arizona
20. Kemote Bateman	WR	6'1"	176	Los Angeles, CA	Arizona State

(#) Reflects ranking in Athlon Consensus 100

RECRUITING REPORT BY CONFERENCE

SEC RANKINGS

1. ALABAMA	5. AUBURN	9. OLE MISS
2. GEORGIA	6. ARKANSAS	10. MISSISSIPPI STATE
3. FLORIDA	7. SOUTH CAROLINA	11. KENTUCKY
4. LSU	8. TENNESSEE	12. VANDERBILT

1. Julio Jones (#2)	WR	6'4"	210	Foley, AL	Alabama
2. Will Hill (#5)	ATH	6'2"	205	West Orange, NJ	Florida
3. A.J. Green (#6)	WR	6'4"	190	Summerville, SC	Georgia
4. Patrick Johnson (#9)	CB	6'1"	175	Pompano Beach, FL	LSU
5. Richard Samuel (#19)	RB	6'2"	215	Cartersville, GA	Georgia
6. B.J. Scott (#22)	ATH	6'0"	195	Prichard, AL	Alabama
7. Tyler Love (#23)	OL	6'7"	290	Mountain Brook, AL	Alabama
8. DeAngelo Tyson (#24)	DT	6'2"	300	Statesboro, GA	Georgia
9. Matt Patchan (#31)	OL	6'6"	260	Tampa, FL	Florida
10. Omar Hunter (#41)	DT	6'0"	322	Buford, GA	Florida
11. Chancey Aghayere (#42)	DE	6'4"	243	Garland, TX	LSU
12. Dee Finley (#53)	S	6'2"	200	Auburn, AL	Florida
13. Mark Barron (#58)	DB	6'2"	215	Mobile, AL	Alabama
14. William Green (#60)	DE	6'4"	215	Hoover, AL	Florida
15. Brendan Beal (#71)	LB	6'3"	223	Bethlehem, PA	Florida
16. Chris Tolliver (#72)	WR	6'1"	189	Rayville, LA	LSU
17. Janoris Jenkins (#74)	CB	5'11"	180	Pahokee, FL	Florida
18. Jerrell Harris (#75)	LB	6'3"	215	Gadsden, AL	Alabama
19. Charles Whitlock (#91)	CB	5'11"	170	Chester, SC	South Carolina
20. Joe Adams (#94)	WR	6'0"	175	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas

SUNBELT RANKINGS

1. NORTH TEXAS	4. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	7. FLORIDA ATLANTIC
2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE	5. UL MONROE	8. UL LAFAYETTE
3. TROY	6. ARKANSAS STATE	

1. Riley Dodge	QB	6'0"	183	Southlake, TX	North Texas
2. DaWaylon Cook	DB	6'2"	187	Dallas, TX	North Texas
3. Luther Ambrose	RB	5'9"	165	St. James, LA	UL Monroe
4. Jacoby Thomas	LB	6'1"	230	Mobile, AL	Troy
5. Sancho McDonald	QB	6'1"	196	Miami, FL	Middle Tennessee
6. A.J. Grant	LB	6'0"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida International
7. Troy Franklin	OL	6'5"	270	Celina, TX	North Texas
8. Marcus Thurmond	WR	5'11"	180	North Augusta, SC	Middle Tennessee
9. Darius Morgan	WR	6'4"	200	Citra, FL	Troy
10. James Hamilton	ATH	5'10"	180	Cedar Hill, TX	North Texas
11. Brent Burnette	QB	6'3"	212	Maryville, TN	Middle Tennessee
12. Malcolm Beyah	ATH	5'11"	187	Chamblee, GA	Middle Tennessee
13. Royce Hill	CB	5'11"	170	Houston, TX	North Texas
14. James Jones	DE	6'1"	230	Lakeland, FL	Florida International
15. Kenny Barrett	WR	6'4"	190	Mart, TX	North Texas
16. Yourhighness Morgan	LB	6'3"	225	Webster, FL	Florida Atlantic
17. James Searcy	DE	6'3"	260	Newnan, GA	Troy
18. Kendall Dangerfield	DT	6'2"	270	Pulaski, TN	Middle Tennessee
19. Taylor Stockemer	WR	6'4"	200	Van Buren, AR	Arkansas State
20. Corey Robinson	QB	6'1"	190	Paducah, KY	Troy

(#) Reflects ranking in Athlon Consensus 100

WAC RANKINGS

1. FRESNO STATE	4. LOUISIANA TECH	7. UTAH STATE
2. HAWAII	5. NEVADA	8. SAN JOSE STATE
3. BOISE STATE	6. IDAHO	9. NEW MEXICO STATE

1. Rashad Evans	ATH	5'9"	180	San Jose, CA	Fresno State
2. Eric Harper	DE	6'4"	220	Marrero, LA	Louisiana Tech
3. Michael Ball	RB	5'10"	225	Las Vegas, NV	Nevada
4. Ebahn Feathers	QB	6'1"	210	Fresno, CA	Fresno State
5. Tyler Jackson	DB	6'0"	185	Castle Rock, CO	Boise State
6. Steven Christian	DB	6'1"	175	Sacramento, CA	Hawaii
7. Logan Harrell	DL	6'2"	275	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	Fresno State
8. Matt Akers	DE	6'3"	240	Bakersfield, CA	Fresno State
9. Douglas Spacht	OL	6'3"	285	Long Beach, CA	Fresno State
10. Byron Hout	LB	6'1"	225	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Boise State
11. Exavier Johnson	ATH	6'2"	200	Van Nuys, CA	Utah State
12. Damion Whittington	LB	6'1"	220	Norco, CA	Fresno State
13. Lewis Walker	DB	5'11"	170	Salt Lake City, UT	Hawaii
14. Charles Smith	DE	6'5"	238	Las Vegas, NV	Idaho
15. Chris Potter	WR	5'10"	170	Westlake Village, CA	Boise State
16. Greg Grimes	DT	6'0"	280	Sacramento, CA	Boise State
17. Ina Liaina	ATH	6'1"	225	Oxnard, CA	San Jose State
18. Geordon Hanohano	DT	6'2"	270	Honolulu, HI	Hawaii
19. Darrius Terry	DB	5'11"	180	Lufkin, TX	Louisiana Tech
20. Tuiatua Tuiasosopo	OL	6'1"	290	Honolulu, HI	Hawaii

TOP 50 RECRUITING CLASSES

1. ALABAMA	24. AUBURN
2. OHIO STATE	25. MISSOURI
3. MIAMI	26. ARKANSAS
4. NOTRE DAME	27. NC STATE
5. USC	28. WISCONSIN
6. GEORGIA	29. PENN STATE
7. OKLAHOMA	30. CALIFORNIA
8. FLORIDA	31. ARIZONA
9. CLEMSON	32. SOUTH CAROLINA
10. MICHIGAN	33. BOSTON COLLEGE
11. TEXAS	34. TENNESSEE
12. FLORIDA STATE	35. OLE MISS
13. LSU	36. NORTH CAROLINA
14. UCLA	37. NEBRASKA
15. COLORADO	38. OKLAHOMA STATE
16. OREGON	39. STANFORD
17. WASHINGTON	40. MARYLAND
18. TEXAS A&M	41. KANSAS STATE
19. MINNESOTA	42. MISSISSIPPI STATE
20. ILLINOIS	43. SOUTHERN MISS
21. ARIZONA STATE	44. WEST VIRGINIA
22. VIRGINIA TECH	45. SOUTH FLORIDA
23. PITTSBURGH	46. RUTGERS
	47. SYRACUSE
	48. KANSAS
	49. GEORGIA TECH
	50. MICHIGAN STATE

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RECRUITING

ATHLON CONSENSUS 100

Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	School	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	School
1. Terrelle Pryor	QB	6'5"	230	Jeannette, PA	Ohio State	51. Rahim Moore	S	6'2"	185	Los Angeles, CA	UCLA
2. Julio Jones	WR	6'4"	210	Foley, AL	Alabama	52. Boubacar Cissoko	CB	5'9"	175	Detroit, MI	Michigan
3. Darrell Scott	RB	6'2"	215	Oxnard, CA	Colorado	53. Dee Finley	S	6'2"	200	Auburn, AL	Florida
4. Da'Quan Bowers	DE	6'5"	265	Bamberg, SC	Clemson	54. Aundre Dean	RB	6'1"	210	Katy, TX	UCLA
5. Will Hill	ATH	6'2"	205	West Orange, NJ	Florida	55. Shayne Hale	LB	6'4"	240	Monroeville, PA	Pittsburgh
6. A.J. Green	WR	6'4"	190	Summerville, SC	Georgia	56. J.B. Shugarts	OL	6'8"	300	Klein, TX	Ohio State
7. Arthur Brown	LB	6'2"	230	Wichita, KS	Miami	57. DeVoe Torrence	ATH	6'2"	212	Massillon, OH	TBD
8. Jermie Calhoun	RB	6'0"	210	Van, TX	Oklahoma	58. Mark Barron	DB	6'2"	215	Mobile, AL	Alabama
9. Patrick Johnson	CB	6'1"	175	Pompano Beach, FL	LSU	59. Nigel Carr	LB	6'3"	220	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
10. R.J. Washington	DE	6'4"	242	Fort Worth, TX	Oklahoma	60. William Green	DE	6'4"	215	Hoover, AL	Florida
11. Marcus Forston	DT	6'2"	309	Miami, FL	Miami	61. Cyrus Gray	RB	5'10"	188	DeSoto, TX	Texas A&M
12. Michael Brewster	OL	6'5"	300	Orlando, FL	Ohio State	62. Aaron Williams	DB	6'1"	175	Round Rock, TX	Texas
13. Michael Floyd	WR	6'3"	200	Saint Paul, MN	Notre Dame	63. Josh Jarboe	WR	6'3"	195	Decatur, GA	Oklahoma
14. Nigel Bradham	LB	6'2"	227	Crawfordville, FL	Florida State	64. Jarvis Humphrey	DT	6'2"	295	Cedar Hill, TX	Texas
15. Blake Ayles	TE	6'5"	255	Orange, CA	USC	65. Jon Major	LB	6'3"	225	Parker, CO	Colorado
16. Jonathan Baldwin	WR	6'5"	220	Aliquippa, PA	Pittsburgh	66. Ramon Buchanan	ATH	6'1"	181	Melbourne, FL	Miami
17. DeAndre Brown	WR	6'6"	205	Ocean Springs, MS	Southern Miss	67. Deion Walker	WR	6'3"	185	Christchurch, VA	Notre Dame
18. Matt Kalil	OL	6'6"	290	Corona, CA	USC	68. Lamaar Thomas	ATH	5'11"	186	Fort Washington, MD	Ohio State
19. Richard Samuel	RB	6'2"	215	Cartersville, GA	Georgia	69. Dann O'Neill	OL	6'7"	295	Grand Haven, MI	Michigan
20. Dayne Crist	QB	6'5"	225	Sherman Oaks, CA	Notre Dame	70. Jonas Gray	RB	5'11"	214	Beverly Hills, MI	Notre Dame
21. E.J. Manuel	QB	6'4"	201	Virginia Beach, VA	Florida State	71. Brendan Beal	LB	6'3"	223	Bethlehem, PA	Florida
22. B.J. Scott	ATH	6'0"	195	Prichard, AL	Alabama	72. Chris Tolliver	WR	6'1"	189	Rayville, LA	LSU
23. Tyler Love	OL	6'7"	290	Mountain Brook, AL	Alabama	73.. Marcus Robinson	LB	6'2"	210	Homestead, FL	Miami
24. DeAngelo Tyson	DT	6'2"	300	Statesboro, GA	Georgia	74. Janoris Jenkins	CB	5'11"	180	Pahokee, FL	Florida
25. Mike Adams	OL	6'8"	310	Dublin, OH	Ohio State	75. Jerrell Harris	LB	6'3"	215	Gadsden, AL	Alabama
26. Kyle Rudolph	TE	6'7"	235	Cincinnati, OH	Notre Dame	76. Lynn Katoa	LB	6'2"	220	Salt Lake City, UT	Colorado
27. Tyron Smith	OL	6'6"	270	Moreno Valley, CA	USC	77. DeSean Hales	WR	5'11"	185	Spring, TX	Texas
28. T.J. Bryant	DB	6'1"	190	Tallahassee, FL	USC	78. Steve Filer	LB	6'4"	220	Chicago, IL	Notre Dame
29. Stephen Good	OL	6'5"	305	Paris, TX	Oklahoma	79. Gerell Robinson	WR	6'4"	210	Phoenix, AZ	ASU
30. Aldarius Johnson	WR	6'2"	217	Miami, FL	Miami	80. Jake Stoneburner	TE	6'6"	225	Dublin, OH	Ohio State
31. Matt Patchan	OL	6'6"	260	Tampa, FL	Florida	81. Brandon Thompson	DT	6'2"	291	Thomasville, GA	Clemson
32. Blaine Gabbert	QB	6'5"	225	Ballwin, MO	Missouri	82. Garrett Goebel	DT	6'5"	280	Villa Park, IL	Ohio State
33. Etienne Sabino	LB	6'3"	230	Sonny Isles, FL	Ohio State	83. Matt Meyer	OL	6'8"	295	Stockton, CA	USC
34. D.J. Shoemate	WR	6'0"	220	Mira Loma, FL	USC	84. Andrew Sweat	LB	6'2"	225	Washington, PA	Ohio State
35. Lucas Nix	OL	6'6"	300	Jefferson Hills, PA	Pittsburgh	85. Trevor Robinson	OL	6'5"	304	Elkhorn, NE	Notre Dame
36. Ethan Johnson	DL	6'4"	265	Portland, OR	Notre Dame	86. Jordan Futch	S/LB	6'3"	202	Hollywood, FL	Miami
37. Baker Steinkuhler	OL	6'6"	290	Lincoln, NE	Nebraska	87. D.J. Monroe	CB	5'9"	165	Angleton, TX	Texas
38. Ryan Williams	RB	5'10"	200	Manassas, VA	Virginia Tech	88. Sean Spence	S/LB	6'0"	202	Miami, FL	Miami
39. DeVier Posey	WR	6'3"	205	Cincinnati, OH	Ohio State	89. Justin Johnson	RB	6'1"	210	Gilmer, TX	Oklahoma
40. Dan Buckner	WR	6'4"	213	Austin, TX	Texas	90. Darius Fleming	LB	6'2"	230	Chicago, IL	Notre Dame
41. Omar Hunter	DT	6'0"	322	Buford, GA	Florida	91. Charles Whitlock	CB	5'11"	170	Chester, SC	South Carolina
42. Chancey Aghayere	DE	6'4"	243	Garland, TX	LSU	92. Jeff Fuller	WR	6'4"	206	McKinney, TX	Texas A&M
43. Andrew Luck	QB	6'4"	215	Houston, TX	Stanford	93. Antoine McClain	OL	6'6"	305	Anniston, AL	Clemson
44. Kavario Middleton	TE	6'5"	255	Lakewood, WA	Washington	94. Joe Adams	WR	6'0"	175	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
45. Jameel Owens	WR	6'3"	200	Muskogee, OK	Oklahoma	95. Nick Perry	DE	6'3"	240	Detroit, MI	USC
46. Darryl Stonum	WR	6'3"	185	Sugar Land, TX	Michigan	96. Robert Golden	CB	5'10"	180	Fresno, CA	Arizona
47. Brandon Harris	CB	5'10"	185	Miami, FL	Miami	97. Josh Jenkins	OL	6'5"	305	Parkersburg, WV	West Virginia
48. Brice Butler	WR	6'3"	215	Norcross, GA	USC	98. Brandon Barnes	ATH	6'0"	180	Bunn, NC	NC State
49. Jamie Harper	RB	6'0"	227	Jacksonville, FL	Clemson	99. Aaron Hester	CB	6'0"	180	Compton, CA	UCLA
50. Mike Glennon	QB	6'6"	195	Centreville, VA	NC State	100. Landry Jones	QB	6'4"	210	Artesia, NM	Oklahoma

The Athlon Consensus 100 is a compilation of the rankings of four major recruiting services. We regard this as a fair representation of the top players in the country. For more detailed recruiting coverage, visit athlonsports.com.

RECRUITING

TOP RISING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Top 15 Quarterbacks

Matt Barkley	6'3"	225
Shavodrick Beaver	6'3"	177
Tate Forcier	6'1"	195
Garrett Gilbert	6'3"	195
Cody Green	6'4"	220
A.J. McCarron	6'4"	190
Ryan Mossakowski	6'4"	198
Aaron Murray	6'1"	201
Kevin Newsome	6'3"	210
Morgan Newton	6'4"	205
Josh Nunes	6'4"	207
Tyrik Rollison	6'2"	185
Tom Savage	6'3"	230
Russell Shepard	6'2"	187
Eugene Smith	6'3"	175

Top 20 Running Backs

Edwin Baker	5'10"	205
Bryce Brown	6'1"	212
Larry Caper	5'10"	215
A.J. Dugot	6'1"	205
Washaun Ealey	5'11"	205
Michael Ford	5'10"	200
Tyler Gaffney	6'1"	215
Eddie Lacy	5'11"	200
Lamar Miller	5'11"	205
David Oku	5'8"	180
Dexter Pratt	6'2"	220
Lonnie Pryor	6'1"	195
Trent Richardson	5'11"	210
Theo Riddick	5'10"	190
Desmond Scott	5'9"	180
Jeremy Smith	5'10"	197
Chris Whaley	6'3"	220
Chris Thompson	5'8"	175
Ronnie Wingo, Jr.	6'2"	210
Cierre Wood	6'0"	195

Top 20 Wide Receivers

Joshua Adams	6'4"	200
Kraig Appleton	6'3"	190
Emory Blake	6'2"	200
Marlon Brown	6'5"	210
Jheranie Boyd	6'3"	180
Randall Carroll	5'10"	180
Keenan Davis	6'3"	195
Andre Debose	6'0"	170
Willie Downs	6'2"	190
Shaquell Evans	6'1"	190
Chris Fields	6'0"	180
DeVon Flournoy	6'0"	180
Logan Heastie	6'2"	185
James Jackson	6'0"	175
Rolando Jefferson	6'2"	190
Kendall Kelly	6'4"	210
Rueben Randle	6'3"	200
Nu'Keese Richardson	5'9"	160
Je'Ron Stokes	6'1"	180
Greg Timmons	6'3"	195

Top 10 Tight Ends

Orson Charles	6'3"	230
Brock DeCicco	6'5"	210
Arthur Fontaine	6'4"	214
Jake Golic	6'4"	210
Edward Hazelett	6'7"	250
Barrett Matthews	6'3"	220
Morrell Presley	6'4"	220
Dion Sims	6'4"	228
Levine Toilolo	6'7"	235
Logan Thomas	6'6"	215

Top 20 Offensive Linemen

Santa Ana, CA	Nick Alajajian	6'4"	280
Wichita Falls, TX	Thomas Ashcraft	6'5"	280
San Diego, CA	Chris Burnette	6'4"	290
Austin, TX	Kevin Graf	6'6"	302
Dayton, TX	Marcus Hall	6'5"	290
Mobile, AL	Stan Hasiak	6'6"	295
Frisco, TX	Leon Hill	6'4"	320
Tampa, FL	J.K. Jay	6'6"	275
Chesapeake, VA	Austin Long	6'6"	275
Carmel, IN	John Martinez	6'4"	265
Upland, CA	Xavier Nixon	6'6"	275
Sulphur Springs, TX	Michael Philipp	6'4"	305
Philadelphia, PA	Eric Shrive	6'7"	285
Houston, TX	Charles Siddoway	6'5"	287
Miramar, FL	Xavier Su'a-Filo	6'4"	270
	Mason Walters	6'6"	290
	Patrick Ward	6'6"	295
Oak Park, MI	Chris Watt	6'3"	280
Wichita, KS	Brandon Webb	6'4"	290
Battle Creek, MI	Jared Wheeler	6'5"	310

Top 15 Defensive Ends

Michael Brockers	6'6"	255
Justin Chaisson	6'4"	252
Craig Drummond	6'5"	260
Dyron Dye	6'4"	220
Melvin Fellows	6'5"	245
Ryne Giddins	6'4"	230
Shelby Harris	6'3"	235
Abry Jones	6'3"	250
Nick Kasa	6'7"	235
Devon Kennard	6'4"	238
Anthony LaLota	6'6"	260
Jack Lippert	6'4"	248
Sam Montgomery	6'4"	220
Donte Moss	6'4"	235
Alex Okafor	6'4"	220

Top 10 Defensive Tackles

Corey Adams	6'4"	272
Gary Brown	6'3"	275
Lendell Buckner	6'3"	325
William Campbell	6'4"	320
Chris Davenport	6'4"	307
D.J. Fluker	6'7"	325
Antwan Lowery	6'3"	310
Jaccobi McDaniel	6'0"	280
Jamarkus McFarland	6'3"	280
John Simon	6'3"	275

Top 20 Linebackers

Tariq Allen	6'2"	230
Dorian Bell	6'1"	215
Vontaze Burfict	6'2"	235
Eric Fields	6'1"	205
Todd Golper	6'1"	225
Jelani Jenkins	6'0"	203
Nico Johnson	6'3"	226
Jarvis Jones	6'3"	205
Storm Klein	6'2"	220
Chris Metcalf	6'2"	195
Barkevious Mingo	6'2"	215
Kevin Minter	6'0"	230
C.J. Mizell	6'2"	212
Austin Moss	6'3"	215
Chris Norman	6'2"	219
Tana Patrick	6'3"	215
Marquis Simmons	6'2"	215
Frankie Telfort	5'1"	200
Manti Te'o	6'2"	230
Jordan Whiting	6'0"	230

Top 20 Cornerbacks

Naples, FL	C.J. Barnett	6'1"	185
Cedar Hill, TX	Eryon Barnett	6'2"	180
LaGrange, GA	Chad Bumpis	5'10"	190
Agoura, CA	Marcus Davis	6'1"	185
Cleveland, OH	Ricardo Dixon	5'10"	160
Kapolei, HI	Darrell Givens	5'11"	174
Chicago, IL	Eric Gordon	5'10"	190
Greenville, SC	Cliff Harris	6'0"	165
Memphis, TN	Travis Hawkins	5'11"	185
Salt Lake City, UT	D.J. Hunter	6'0"	195
Fayetteville, NC	Janzen Jackson	6'0"	175
San Bernardino, CA	Dre Kirkpatrick	6'2"	180
Scranton, PA	Gabe Lynn	6'1"	180
Eugene, OR	Marlon Pollard	6'1"	170
Provo, UT	Greg Reid	5'9"	180
Wolfforth, TX	Terry Shankle	5'10"	170
New Lennox, IL	Branden Smith	5'11"	180
Glen Ellyn, IL	Kenny Vaccaro	6'1"	190
Osawato, OK	Chris Williams	5'11"	185
Plantation, FL	Darius Winston	6'0"	180

Top 10 Safeties

Craig Bills	6'2"	205
Kevin Brent	5'11"	196
Jajuan Harley	6'2"	190
DeVonte Holloman	6'2"	205
DaMario Jeffery	6'3"	215
Craig Loston	6'2"	193
T.J. McDonald	6'2"	186
Justin Turner	6'2"	186
Dijon Washington	6'0"	180
Jamie Wood	6'2"	190

Top 10 Athletes

Ray Ray Armstrong	6'4"	218
E.J. Banks	6'0"	180
Corey Brown	6'0"	180
Montrell Connor	6'2"	210
Jeremy Gallon	5'9"	160
Patrick Hall	6'0"	181
Brandon McGee	6'0"	180
Donavan Tate	6'2"	195
Logan Thomas	6'6"	215
Todd Thomas	6'3"	195



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2008 FBS COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

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ACC

BOSTON COLLEGE (11-3)

Chestnut Hill, MA
A. 30 #Kent State
S. 6 Georgia Tech
S. 20 UCF
S. 27 Rhode Island
O. 4 at NC State
O. 18 Virginia Tech
O. 25 at North Carolina
N. 1 Clemson
N. 8 Notre Dame
N. 15 at Florida State
N. 22 at Wake Forest
N. 29 Maryland
#Cleveland, OH

CLEMSON (9-4)

Clemson, SC
A. 30 #Alabama
S. 6 The Citadel
S. 13 NC State
S. 20 South Carolina State
S. 27 Maryland
O. 9 at Wake Forest
O. 18 Georgia Tech
N. 1 at Boston College
N. 8 at Florida State
N. 15 Duke
N. 22 at Virginia
N. 29 South Carolina
#Atlanta, GA

DUKE (1-11)

Durham, NC
A. 30 James Madison
S. 6 Northwestern
S. 13 Navy
S. 27 Virginia
O. 4 at Georgia Tech
O. 18 Miami
O. 25 at Vanderbilt
N. 1 at Wake Forest
N. 8 NC State
N. 15 at Clemson
N. 22 at Virginia Tech
N. 29 North Carolina

FLORIDA STATE (7-6)

Tallahassee, FL
S. 6 Western Carolina
S. 13 Chattanooga
S. 20 Wake Forest
S. 27 #Colorado
O. 4 at Miami
O. 16 at NC State
O. 25 Virginia Tech
N. 1 at Georgia Tech
N. 8 Clemson
N. 15 Boston College
N. 22 at Maryland
N. 29 Florida
#Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA TECH (7-6)

Atlanta, GA
A. 28 Jacksonville State
S. 6 at Boston College
S. 13 at Virginia Tech
S. 20 Mississippi State
O. 4 Duke
O. 11 Gardner-Webb
O. 18 at Clemson
O. 25 Virginia
N. 1 Florida State
N. 8 at North Carolina
N. 20 Miami
N. 29 at Georgia

MARYLAND (6-7)

College Park, MD
A. 30 Delaware
S. 6 at Middle Tennessee
S. 13 California
S. 20 Eastern Michigan
S. 27 at Clemson
O. 4 at Virginia
O. 18 Wake Forest
O. 25 NC State
N. 6 at Virginia Tech
N. 15 North Carolina
N. 22 Florida State
N. 29 at Boston College

MIAMI (5-7)

Coral Gables, FL
A. 28 Charleston Southern
S. 6 at Florida
S. 20 at Texas A&M
S. 27 North Carolina
O. 4 Florida State
O. 11 UCF
O. 18 at Duke
O. 25 Wake Forest
N. 1 at Virginia
N. 13 Virginia Tech
N. 20 at Georgia Tech
N. 29 at NC State

NORTH CAROLINA (4-8)

Chapel Hill, NC
A. 30 McNeese State
S. 11 at Rutgers
S. 20 Virginia Tech
S. 27 at Miami
O. 4 Connecticut
O. 11 Notre Dame
O. 18 at Virginia
O. 25 Boston College
N. 8 Georgia Tech
N. 15 at Maryland
N. 22 NC State
N. 29 at Duke

NC STATE (5-7)

Raleigh, NC
A. 28 at South Carolina
S. 6 William & Mary
S. 13 at Clemson
S. 20 East Carolina
S. 27 South Florida
O. 4 Boston College
O. 16 Florida State
O. 25 at Maryland
N. 8 at Duke
N. 15 Wake Forest
N. 22 at North Carolina
N. 29 Miami

VIRGINIA (9-4)

Charlottesville, VA
A. 30 USC
S. 6 Richmond
S. 13 at Connecticut
S. 27 at Duke
O. 4 Maryland
O. 11 East Carolina
O. 18 North Carolina
O. 25 at Georgia Tech
N. 1 Miami
N. 8 at Wake Forest
N. 22 Clemson
N. 29 at Virginia Tech

VIRGINIA TECH (11-3)

Blacksburg, VA
A. 30 #East Carolina
S. 6 Furman
S. 13 Georgia Tech
S. 20 at North Carolina
S. 27 at Nebraska
O. 4 Western Kentucky
O. 18 at Boston College
O. 25 at Florida State
N. 6 Maryland
N. 13 at Miami
N. 22 Duke
N. 29 Virginia
#Charlotte, NC

WAKE FOREST (9-4)

Winston-Salem, NC
A. 30 at Baylor
S. 6 Ole Miss
S. 20 at Florida State
S. 27 Navy
O. 9 Clemson
O. 18 at Maryland
O. 25 at Miami
N. 1 Duke
N. 8 Virginia
N. 15 at NC State
N. 22 Boston College
N. 29 Vanderbilt

BIG EAST

CINCINNATI (10-3)

Cincinnati, OH
A. 28 Eastern Kentucky
S. 6 at Oklahoma
S. 20 Miami (OH)
S. 27 at Akron
O. 3 at Marshall
O. 11 Rutgers
O. 25 at Connecticut
O. 30 South Florida
N. 8 at West Virginia
N. 14 at Louisville
N. 22 Pittsburgh
N. 29 Syracuse
D. 6 at Hawaii

CONNECTICUT (9-4)

Storrs, CT
A. 28 Hofstra
S. 6 at Temple
S. 13 Virginia
S. 19 Baylor
S. 26 at Louisville
O. 4 at North Carolina
O. 18 at Rutgers
O. 25 Cincinnati
N. 1 West Virginia
N. 15 at Syracuse
N. 22 at South Florida
D. 6 Pittsburgh

LOUISVILLE (6-6)

Louisville, KY
A. 31 Kentucky
S. 6 Tennessee Tech
S. 17 Kansas State
S. 26 Connecticut
O. 10 at Memphis
O. 18 Middle Tennessee
O. 25 South Florida
N. 1 at Syracuse
N. 8 at Pittsburgh
N. 14 Cincinnati
N. 22 West Virginia
D. 4 at Rutgers

PITTSBURGH (5-7)

Pittsburgh, PA
A. 30 Bowling Green
S. 6 Buffalo
S. 20 Iowa
S. 27 at Syracuse
O. 2 at South Florida
O. 18 at Navy
O. 25 Rutgers
N. 1 at Notre Dame
N. 8 Louisville
N. 22 at Cincinnati
N. 28 West Virginia
D. 6 at Connecticut

RUTGERS (8-5)

New Brunswick, NJ
S. 1 Fresno State
S. 11 North Carolina
S. 20 at Navy
S. 27 Morgan State
O. 4 at West Virginia
O. 11 at Cincinnati
O. 18 Connecticut
O. 25 at Pittsburgh
N. 8 Syracuse
N. 15 at South Florida
N. 22 Army
D. 4 Louisville

SOUTH FLORIDA (9-4)

Tampa, FL
A. 30 Tennessee-Martin
S. 6 at UCF
S. 12 Kansas
S. 20 at Florida International
S. 27 at NC State
O. 2 Pittsburgh
O. 18 Syracuse
O. 25 at Louisville
O. 30 at Cincinnati
N. 15 Rutgers
N. 22 Connecticut
D. 6 at West Virginia

SYRACUSE (2-10)

Syracuse, NY
A. 30 at Northwestern
S. 6 Akron
S. 13 Penn State
S. 20 Northeastern
S. 27 Pittsburgh
O. 11 at West Virginia
O. 18 at South Florida
N. 1 Louisville
N. 8 at Rutgers
N. 15 Connecticut
N. 22 at Notre Dame
N. 29 at Cincinnati

WEST VIRGINIA (11-2)

Morgantown, WV
A. 30 Villanova
S. 6 at East Carolina
S. 18 at Colorado
S. 27 Marshall
O. 4 Rutgers
O. 11 Syracuse
O. 23 Auburn
N. 1 at Connecticut
N. 8 Cincinnati
N. 22 at Louisville
N. 28 at Pittsburgh
D. 6 South Florida

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS (9-4)

Champaign, IL
A. 30 #Missouri
S. 6 Eastern Illinois
S. 13 UL Lafayette
S. 27 at Penn State
O. 4 at Michigan
O. 11 Minnesota
O. 18 Indiana
O. 25 at Wisconsin
N. 1 Iowa
N. 8 #Western Michigan
N. 15 Ohio State
N. 22 at Northwestern
#St. Louis, MO
#Detroit, MI

INDIANA (7-6)

Bloomington, IN
A. 30 Western Kentucky
S. 6 Murray State
S. 20 Ball State
S. 27 Michigan State
O. 4 at Minnesota
O. 11 Iowa
O. 18 at Illinois
O. 25 Northwestern
N. 1 Central Michigan
N. 8 Wisconsin
N. 15 at Penn State
N. 22 at Purdue

IOWA (6-6)

Iowa City, IA
A. 30 Maine
S. 6 Florida International
S. 13 Iowa State
S. 20 at Pittsburgh
S. 27 Northwestern
O. 4 at Michigan State
O. 11 at Indiana
O. 18 Wisconsin
N. 1 at Illinois
N. 8 Penn State
N. 15 Purdue
N. 22 at Minnesota

MICHIGAN (9-4)

Ann Arbor, MI
A. 30 Utah
S. 6 Miami (OH)
S. 13 at Notre Dame
S. 27 Wisconsin
O. 4 Illinois
O. 11 Toledo
O. 18 at Penn State
O. 25 Michigan State
N. 1 at Purdue
N. 8 at Minnesota
N. 15 Northwestern
N. 22 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE (7-6)

East Lansing, MI
A. 30 at California
S. 6 Eastern Michigan
S. 13 Florida Atlantic
S. 20 Notre Dame
S. 27 at Indiana
O. 4 Iowa
O. 11 at Northwestern
O. 18 Ohio State
O. 25 at Michigan
N. 1 Wisconsin
N. 8 Purdue
N. 22 at Penn State

MINNESOTA (11-1)

Minneapolis, MN
A. 30 Northern Illinois
S. 6 at Bowling Green
S. 13 Montana State
S. 20 Florida Atlantic
S. 27 at Ohio State
O. 4 Indiana
O. 11 at Illinois
O. 25 at Purdue
N. 1 Northwestern
N. 8 Michigan
N. 15 at Wisconsin
N. 22 Iowa

NORTHWESTERN (6-6)

Evanston, IL
A. 30 Syracuse
S. 6 at Duke
S. 13 Southern Illinois
S. 20 Ohio
S. 27 at Iowa
O. 11 Michigan State
O. 18 Purdue
O. 25 at Indiana
N. 1 at Minnesota
N. 8 Ohio State
N. 15 at Michigan
N. 22 Illinois

OHIO STATE (11-2)

Columbus, OH
A. 30 Youngstown State
S. 6 Ohio
S. 13 at USC
S. 20 Troy
S. 27 Minnesota
O. 4 at Wisconsin
O. 11 Purdue
O. 18 at Michigan State
O. 25 Penn State
N. 8 at Northwestern
N. 15 at Illinois
N. 22 Michigan

PENN STATE (9-4)

University Park, PA
A. 30 Coastal Carolina
S. 6 Oregon State
S. 13 at Syracuse
S. 20 Temple
S. 27 Illinois
O. 4 at Purdue
O. 11 at Wisconsin
O. 18 Michigan
O. 25 at Ohio State
N. 8 at Iowa
N. 15 Indiana
N. 22 Michigan State

PURDUE (8-5)

West Lafayette, IN
S. 6 Northern Colorado
S. 13 Oregon
S. 20 Central Michigan
S. 27 at Notre Dame
O. 4 Penn State
O. 11 at Ohio State
O. 18 at Northwestern
O. 25 Minnesota
N. 1 Michigan
N. 8 at Michigan State
N. 15 at Iowa
N. 22 Indiana

WISCONSIN (9-4)

Madison, WI
A. 30 Akron
S. 6 Marshall
S. 13 at Fresno State
S. 27 at Michigan
O. 4 Ohio State
O. 11 Penn State
O. 18 at Iowa
O. 25 Illinois
N. 1 at Michigan State
N. 8 at Indiana
N. 15 Minnesota
N. 22 Cal Poly

BIG 12

BAYLOR (3-9)

Waco, TX
A. 30 Wake Forest
S. 6 Northwestern State
S. 13 Washington State
S. 19 at Connecticut
O. 4 Oklahoma
O. 11 Iowa State
O. 18 at Oklahoma State
O. 25 at Nebraska
N. 1 Missouri
N. 8 at Texas
N. 15 Texas A&M
N. 29 at Texas Tech

COLORADO (6-7)

Boulder, CO
A. 30 #Colorado State
S. 6 Eastern Washington
S. 18 West Virginia
S. 27 #Florida State
O. 4 Texas
O. 11 at Kansas
O. 18 Kansas State
O. 25 at Missouri
N. 1 at Texas A&M
N. 8 Iowa State
N. 15 Oklahoma State
N. 28 at Nebraska
#Denver, CO
#Jacksonville, FL

IOWA STATE (3-9)

Ames, IA
A. 28 South Dakota State
S. 6 Kent State
S. 13 at Iowa
S. 20 at UNLV
O. 4 Kansas
O. 11 at Baylor
O. 18 Nebraska
O. 25 Texas A&M
N. 1 at Oklahoma State
N. 8 at Colorado
N. 15 Missouri
N. 22 at Kansas State

KANSAS (12-1)

Lawrence, KS
A. 30 Florida International
S. 6 Louisiana Tech
S. 12 at South Florida
S. 20 Sam Houston State
O. 4 at Iowa State
O. 11 Colorado
O. 18 at Oklahoma
O. 25 Texas Tech
N. 1 at Kansas State
N. 8 at Nebraska
N. 15 Texas
N. 29 #Missouri
#Kansas City, MO

KANSAS STATE (5-7)

Manhattan, KS
A. 30 North Texas
S. 6 Montana State
S. 17 at Louisville
S. 27 UL Lafayette
O. 4 Texas Tech
O. 11 at Texas A&M
O. 18 at Colorado
O. 25 Oklahoma
N. 1 at Kansas
N. 8 at Missouri
N. 15 Nebraska
N. 22 Iowa State

MISSOURI (12-2)

Columbia, MO
A. 30 #Illinois
S. 6 Southeast Missouri
S. 13 Nevada
S. 20 Buffalo
O. 4 at Nebraska
O. 11 Oklahoma State
O. 18 at Texas
O. 25 Colorado
N. 1 at Baylor
N. 8 Kansas State
N. 15 at Iowa State
N. 29 %Kansas
#St. Louis, MO
%Kansas City, MO

NEBRASKA (5-7)

Lincoln, NE
A. 30 Western Michigan
S. 6 San Jose State
S. 13 New Mexico State
S. 27 Virginia Tech
O. 4 Missouri
O. 11 at Texas Tech
O. 18 at Iowa State
O. 25 Baylor
N. 1 at Oklahoma
N. 8 Kansas
N. 15 at Kansas State
N. 28 Colorado

OKLAHOMA (11-3)

Norman, OK
A. 30 Chattanooga
S. 6 Cincinnati
S. 13 at Washington
S. 27 TCU
O. 4 at Baylor
O. 11 #Texas
O. 18 Kansas
O. 25 at Kansas State
N. 1 Nebraska
N. 8 at Texas A&M
N. 22 Texas Tech
N. 29 at Oklahoma State
#Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE (7-6)

Stillwater, OK
A. 30 #Washington State
S. 6 Houston
S. 13 Missouri State
S. 27 Troy
O. 4 Texas A&M
O. 11 at Missouri
O. 18 Baylor
O. 25 at Texas
N. 1 Iowa State
N. 8 at Texas Tech
N. 15 at Colorado
N. 29 Oklahoma
#Seattle, WA

TEXAS (10-3)

Austin, TX
A. 30 Florida Atlantic
S. 6 at UTEP
S. 13 Arkansas
S. 20 Rice
O. 4 at Colorado
O. 11 #Oklahoma
O. 18 Missouri
O. 25 Oklahoma State
N. 1 at Texas Tech
N. 8 Baylor
N. 15 at Kansas
N. 27 Texas A&M
#Dallas, TX

TEXAS A&M (7-6)

College Station, TX
A. 30 Arkansas State
S. 6 at New Mexico
S. 20 Miami
S. 27 Army
O. 4 at Oklahoma State
O. 11 Kansas State
O. 18 Texas Tech
O. 25 at Iowa State
N. 1 Colorado
N. 8 Oklahoma
N. 15 at Baylor
N. 27 at Texas

TEXAS TECH (9-4)

Lubbock, TX
A. 30 Eastern Washington
S. 6 at Nevada
S. 13 SMU
S. 20 Massachusetts
O. 4 at Kansas State
O. 11 Nebraska
O. 18 at Texas A&M
O. 25 at Kansas
N. 1 Texas
N. 8 Oklahoma State
N. 22 at Oklahoma
N. 29 Baylor

C-USA

EAST CAROLINA (8-5)

Greenville, NC
A. 30 #Virginia Tech
S. 6 West Virginia
S. 13 at Tulane
S. 20 at NC State
S. 27 Houston
O. 11 at Virginia
O. 18 Memphis
N. 2 at UCF
N. 8 Marshall
N. 15 at Southern Miss
N. 22 at UAB
N. 28 UTEP
#Charlotte, NC

HOUSTON (8-5)

Houston, TX
A. 30 Southern
S. 6 at Oklahoma State
S. 13 Air Force
S. 20 at Colorado State
S. 27 at East Carolina
O. 11 UAB
O. 18 at SMU
O. 28 at Marshall
N. 8 Tulane
N. 15 Tulsa
N. 22 UTEP
N. 29 at Rice

MARSHALL (3-9)

Huntington, WV
A. 30 Illinois State
S. 6 at Wisconsin
S. 13 Memphis
S. 20 at Southern Miss
S. 27 at West Virginia
O. 3 Cincinnati
O. 18 at UAB
O. 28 Houston
N. 8 at East Carolina
N. 15 UCF
N. 22 at Rice
N. 29 Tulsa

MEMPHIS (7-6)

Memphis, TN
A. 30 at Ole Miss
S. 6 Rice
S. 13 at Marshall
S. 20 Nicholls State
S. 27 Arkansas State
O. 2 at UAB
O. 10 Louisville
O. 18 at East Carolina
O. 25 Southern Miss
N. 8 at SMU
N. 22 UCF
N. 29 Tulane

RICE (3-9)

Houston, TX
A. 29 SMU
S. 6 at Memphis
S. 13 at Vanderbilt
S. 20 at Texas
S. 27 North Texas
O. 4 at Tulsa
O. 18 Southern Miss
O. 25 at Tulane
N. 1 at UTEP
N. 8 Army
N. 22 Marshall
N. 29 Houston

SMU (1-11)

Dallas, TX
A. 29 at Rice
S. 6 Texas State
S. 13 at Texas Tech
S. 20 TCU
S. 27 at Tulane
O. 4 at UCF
O. 11 Tulsa
O. 18 Houston
O. 25 at Navy
N. 8 Memphis
N. 15 at UTEP
N. 29 Southern Miss

SOUTHERN MISS (7-6)

Hattiesburg, MS
A. 30 UL Lafayette
S. 6 at Auburn
S. 13 at Arkansas State
S. 20 Marshall
O. 4 UTEP
O. 11 Boise State
O. 18 at Rice
O. 25 at Memphis
N. 1 UAB
N. 8 at UCF
N. 15 East Carolina
N. 29 at SMU

TULANE (4-8)

New Orleans, LA
S. 6 at Alabama
S. 13 East Carolina
S. 20 UL Monroe
S. 27 SMU
O. 4 Army
O. 11 at UTEP
O. 25 Rice
O. 11 at LSU
N. 1 at Houston
N. 8 UAB
N. 22 at Tulsa
N. 29 at Memphis

TULSA (10-4)

Tulsa, OK
A. 30 at UAB
S. 6 at North Texas
S. 20 New Mexico
S. 27 Central Arkansas
O. 4 Rice
O. 11 at SMU
O. 18 UTEP
O. 26 UCF
N. 1 at Arkansas
N. 8 Tulsa
N. 15 at Houston
N. 22 Tulane
N. 29 at Marshall

UAB (2-10)

Birmingham, AL
A. 30 Tulsa
S. 6 at Florida Atlantic
S. 13 at Tennessee
S. 20 Alabama State
S. 27 at South Carolina
O. 2 Memphis
O. 11 at Houston
O. 18 Marshall
N. 1 at Southern Miss
N. 8 Tulsa
N. 15 at Tulane
N. 22 East Carolina
N. 29 UCF

UCF (10-4)

Orlando, FL
A. 30 South Carolina State
S. 6 South Florida
S. 20 at Boston College
S. 27 at UTEP
O. 4 SMU
O. 11 at Miami
O. 26 at Tulsa
N. 2 East Carolina
N. 8 Southern Miss
N. 15 at Marshall
N. 22 at Memphis
N. 29 UAB

UTEP (4-8)

El Paso, TX
A. 28 at Buffalo
S. 6 Texas
S. 20 New Mexico State
S. 27 UCF
O. 4 at Southern Miss
O. 11 Tulane
O. 18 at Tulsa
N. 1 Rice
N. 8 at UL Lafayette
N. 15 SMU
N. 22 at Houston
N. 28 at East Carolina

MAC

AKRON (4-8)

Akron, OH
A. 30 at Wisconsin
S. 6 at Syracuse
S. 13 Ball State
S. 20 at Army
S. 27 Cincinnati
O. 4 at Kent State
O. 11 Bowling Green
O. 18 at Eastern Michigan
N. 5 Toledo
N. 13 Buffalo
N. 22 at Ohio
N. 28 at Temple

BALL STATE (7-6)

Muncie, IN
A. 28 Northeastern
S. 5 Navy
S. 13 at Akron
S. 20 at Indiana
S. 27 Kent State
O. 4 at Toledo
O. 11 at Western Kentucky
O. 25 Eastern Michigan
N. 5 Northern Illinois
N. 11 at Miami (OH)
N. 19 at Central Michigan
N. 25 Western Michigan

BOWLING GREEN (8-5)

Bowling Green, OH
A. 30 at Pittsburgh
S. 6 Minnesota
S. 13 at Boise State
S. 27 at Wyoming
O. 4 Eastern Michigan
O. 11 at Akron
O. 18 Miami (OH)
O. 25 at Northern Illinois
N. 1 Kent State
N. 8 at Ohio
N. 21 Buffalo
N. 28 at Toledo

BUFFALO (5-7)

Buffalo, NY
A. 28 UTEP
S. 6 at Pittsburgh
S. 13 Temple
S. 20 at Missouri
S. 27 at Central Michigan
O. 11 Western Michigan
O. 18 Army
O. 28 at Ohio
N. 4 Miami (OH)
N. 13 at Akron
N. 21 at Bowling Green
N. 28 Kent State

CENTRAL MICHIGAN (8-6)

Mt. Pleasant, MI
A. 28 Eastern Illinois
S. 6 at Georgia
S. 13 Ohio
S. 20 at Purdue
S. 27 Buffalo
O. 11 Temple
O. 18 Western Michigan
O. 25 at Toledo
N. 1 at Indiana
N. 12 at Northern Illinois
N. 19 Ball State
N. 28 at Eastern Michigan

EASTERN MICHIGAN (4-8)

Ypsilanti, MI
A. 28 Indiana State
S. 6 at Michigan State
S. 13 Toledo
S. 20 at Maryland
S. 27 Northern Illinois
O. 4 at Bowling Green
O. 11 at Army
O. 18 Akron
O. 25 at Ball State
N. 1 at Western Michigan
N. 22 at Temple
N. 28 Central Michigan

KENT STATE (3-9)

Kent, OH
A. 30 #Boston College
S. 6 at Iowa State
S. 13 Delaware State
S. 20 at UL Lafayette
S. 27 at Ball State
O. 4 Akron
O. 11 Ohio
O. 25 at Miami (OH)
N. 1 at Bowling Green
N. 12 Temple
N. 18 Northern Illinois
N. 28 at Buffalo
#Cleveland, OH

MIAMI (OH) (6-7)

Oxford, OH
A. 28 Vanderbilt
S. 6 at Michigan
S. 13 Charleston Southern
S. 20 at Cincinnati
O. 4 Temple
O. 11 at Northern Illinois
O. 18 at Bowling Green
O. 25 Kent State
N. 4 at Buffalo
N. 11 Ball State
N. 21 at Toledo
N. 28 Ohio

NORTHERN ILLINOIS (2-10)

Dekalb, IL
A. 30 at Minnesota
S. 6 at Western Michigan
S. 20 Indiana State
S. 27 at Eastern Michigan
O. 4 Tennessee
O. 11 Miami (OH)
O. 18 Toledo
O. 25 Bowling Green
N. 5 at Ball State
N. 12 Central Michigan
N. 18 at Kent State
N. 25 Navy

OHIO (6-6)

Athens, OH
A. 30 at Wyoming
S. 6 at Ohio State
S. 13 Central Michigan
S. 20 at Northwestern
S. 27 VMI
O. 4 at Western Michigan
O. 11 at Kent State
O. 21 at Temple
O. 28 Buffalo
N. 8 Bowling Green
N. 22 Akron
N. 28 at Miami (OH)

TEMPLE (4-8)

Philadelphia, PA
A. 29 at Army
S. 6 Connecticut
S. 13 at Buffalo
S. 20 at Penn State
S. 27 Western Michigan
O. 4 at Miami (OH)
O. 11 at Central Michigan
O. 21 Ohio
N. 1 at Navy
N. 12 at Kent State
N. 22 Eastern Michigan
N. 28 Akron

TOLEDO (5-7)

Toledo, OH
S. 6 at Arizona
S. 13 at Eastern Michigan
S. 20 Fresno State
S. 27 Florida International
O. 4 Ball State
O. 11 at Michigan
O. 18 at Northern Illinois
O. 25 Central Michigan
N. 5 at Akron
N. 15 at Western Michigan
N. 21 Miami (OH)
N. 28 Bowling Green

WESTERN MICHIGAN (5-7)

Kalamazoo, MI
A. 30 at Nebraska
S. 6 Northern Illinois
S. 13 at Idaho
S. 20 Tennessee Tech
S. 27 at Temple
O. 4 Ohio
O. 11 at Buffalo
O. 18 at Central Michigan
N. 1 Eastern Michigan
N. 8 Illinois
N. 15 Toledo
N. 25 at Ball State
#Detroit, MI

MOUNTAIN WEST

AIR FORCE (9-4)

Colorado Springs, CO
A. 30 Southern Utah
S. 6 at Wyoming
S. 13 at Houston
S. 20 Utah
O. 4 Navy
O. 11 at San Diego State
O. 18 at UNLV
O. 23 New Mexico
N. 1 at Army
N. 8 Colorado State
N. 15 BYU
N. 22 at TCU

BYU (11-2)

Provo, UT
A. 30 Northern Iowa
S. 6 at Washington
S. 13 UCLA
S. 20 Wyoming
O. 3 at Utah State
O. 11 New Mexico
O. 16 at TCU
O. 25 UNLV
N. 1 at Colorado State
N. 8 San Diego State
N. 15 at Air Force
N. 22 at Utah

COLORADO STATE (3-9)

Fort Collins, CO
A. 30 #Colorado
S. 6 Sacramento State
S. 20 Houston
S. 27 at California
O. 4 UNLV
O. 11 TCU
O. 18 at Utah
O. 25 at San Diego State
N. 1 BYU
N. 8 at Air Force
N. 15 New Mexico
N. 22 at Wyoming
#Denver, CO

NEW MEXICO (9-4)

Albuquerque, NM
A. 30 TCU
S. 6 Texas A&M
S. 13 Arizona
S. 20 at Tulsa
S. 27 at New Mexico State
O. 4 Wyoming
O. 11 at BYU
O. 18 San Diego State
O. 23 at Air Force
N. 1 Utah
N. 8 at UNLV
N. 15 at Colorado State

SAN DIEGO STATE (4-8)

San Diego, CA
A. 30 Cal Poly
S. 6 at Notre Dame
S. 13 at San Jose State
S. 27 Idaho
O. 4 at TCU
O. 11 Air Force
O. 18 at New Mexico
O. 25 Colorado State
N. 1 at Wyoming
N. 8 at BYU
N. 15 Utah
N. 22 UNLV

TCU (8-5)

Fort Worth, TX
A. 30 at New Mexico
S. 6 Stephen F. Austin
S. 13 Stanford
S. 20 at SMU
S. 27 at Oklahoma
O. 4 San Diego State
O. 11 at Colorado State
O. 16 BYU
O. 25 Wyoming
N. 1 at UNLV
N. 6 at Utah
N. 22 Air Force

UNLV (2-10)

Las Vegas, NV
A. 30 Utah State
S. 6 at Utah
S. 13 at Arizona State
S. 20 Iowa State
S. 27 Nevada
O. 4 at Colorado State
O. 18 Air Force
O. 25 at BYU
N. 1 TCU
N. 8 New Mexico
N. 13 Wyoming
N. 22 at San Diego State

UTAH (9-4)

Salt Lake City, UT
A. 30 at Michigan
S. 6 UNLV
S. 13 at Utah State
S. 20 at Air Force
S. 27 Weber State
O. 2 Oregon State
O. 11 at Wyoming
O. 18 Colorado State
N. 1 at New Mexico
N. 6 TCU
N. 15 at San Diego State
N. 22 BYU

WYOMING (5-7)

Laramie, WY
A. 30 Ohio
S. 6 Air Force
S. 13 North Dakota State
S. 20 at BYU
S. 27 Bowling Green
O. 4 at New Mexico
O. 11 Utah
O. 25 at TCU
N. 1 San Diego State
N. 8 at Tennessee
N. 13 at UNLV
N. 22 Colorado State

PAC-10

ARIZONA (5-7)

Tucson, AZ
A. 30 Idaho
S. 6 Toledo
S. 13 at New Mexico
S. 20 at UCLA
O. 4 Washington
O. 11 at Stanford
O. 18 California
O. 25 USC
N. 8 at Washington State
N. 15 at Oregon
N. 22 Oregon State
D. 6 Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE (10-3)

Tempe, AZ
A. 30 Northern Arizona
S. 6 Stanford
S. 13 UNLV
S. 20 Georgia
O. 4 at California
O. 11 at USC
O. 25 Oregon
N. 1 at Oregon State
N. 8 at Washington
N. 15 Washington State
N. 28 UCLA
D. 6 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA (7-6)

Berkeley, CA
A. 30 Michigan State
S. 6 at Washington State
S. 13 at Maryland
S. 27 Colorado State
O. 4 Arizona State
O. 18 at Arizona
O. 25 UCLA
N. 1 Oregon
N. 8 at USC
N. 15 at Oregon State
N. 22 Stanford
D. 6 Washington

OREGON (9-4)

Eugene, OR
A. 30 Washington
S. 6 Utah State
S. 13 at Purdue
S. 20 Boise State
S. 27 at Washington State
O. 4 at USC
O. 11 UCLA
O. 25 at Arizona State
N. 1 at California
N. 8 Stanford
N. 15 Arizona
N. 29 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE (9-4)

Corvallis, OR
A. 28 at Stanford
S. 6 at Penn State
S. 13 Hawaii
S. 25 USC
O. 2 at Utah
O. 11 Washington State
O. 18 at Washington
N. 1 Arizona State
N. 8 at UCLA
N. 15 California
N. 22 at Arizona
N. 29 Oregon

STANFORD (4-8)

Stanford, CA
A. 28 Oregon State
S. 6 at Arizona State
S. 13 at TCU
S. 20 San Jose State
S. 27 at Washington
O. 4 at Notre Dame
O. 11 Arizona
O. 18 at UCLA
N. 1 Washington State
N. 8 at Oregon
N. 15 USC
N. 22 at California

UCLA (6-7)

Los Angeles, CA
S. 1 Tennessee
S. 13 at BYU
S. 20 Arizona
S. 27 Fresno State
O. 4 Washington State
O. 11 at Oregon
O. 18 Stanford
O. 25 at California
N. 8 Oregon State
N. 15 at Washington
N. 28 at Arizona State
D. 6 USC

USC (11-2)

Los Angeles, CA
A. 30 at Virginia
S. 13 Ohio State
S. 25 at Oregon State
O. 4 Oregon
O. 11 Arizona State
O. 18 at Washington State
O. 25 at Arizona
N. 1 Washington
N. 8 California
N. 15 at Stanford
N. 29 Notre Dame
D. 6 at UCLA

WASHINGTON (4-9)

Seattle, WA
A. 30 at Oregon
S. 6 BYU
S. 13 Oklahoma
S. 27 Stanford
O. 4 at Arizona
O. 18 Oregon State
O. 25 Notre Dame
N. 1 at USC
N. 8 Arizona State
N. 15 UCLA
N. 22 at Washington State
D. 6 at California

WASHINGTON STATE (5-7)

Pullman, WA
A. 30 #Oklahoma State
S. 13 California
S. 20 Portland State
S. 27 Oregon
O. 4 at UCLA
O. 11 at Oregon State
O. 18 USC
N. 1 at Stanford
N. 8 Arizona
N. 15 at Arizona State
N. 22 Washington
N. 29 at Hawaii
#Seattle, WA

SEC

ALABAMA (7-6)

Tuscaloosa, AL
A. 30 #Clemson
S. 6 Tulane
S. 13 Western Kentucky
S. 20 at Arkansas
S. 27 at Georgia
O. 4 Kentucky
O. 18 Ole Miss
O. 25 at Tennessee
N. 1 Arkansas State
N. 8 at LSU
N. 15 Mississippi State
N. 29 Auburn
#Atlanta, GA

ARKANSAS (8-5)

Fayetteville, AR
A. 30 Western Illinois
S. 6 RUI Monroe
S. 13 at Texas
S. 20 Alabama
O. 4 Florida
O. 11 at Auburn
O. 18 at Kentucky
O. 25 Ole Miss
N. 1 Tulsa
N. 8 at South Carolina
N. 22 at Mississippi State
N. 28 #LSU
#Little Rock, AR

AUBURN (9-4)

Auburn, AL
A. 30 UL Monroe
S. 6 Southern Miss
S. 13 at Mississippi State
S. 20 LSU
S. 27 Tennessee
O. 4 at Vanderbilt
O. 11 Arkansas
O. 23 at West Virginia
N. 1 at Ole Miss
N. 8 Tennessee-Martin
N. 15 Georgia
N. 29 at Alabama

FLORIDA (9-4)

Gainesville, FL
A. 30 Hawaii
S. 6 Miami
S. 20 at Tennessee
S. 27 Ole Miss
O. 4 at Arkansas
O. 11 LSU
O. 25 Kentucky
N. 1 #Georgia
N. 8 at Vanderbilt
N. 15 South Carolina
N. 22 The Citadel
N. 29 at Florida State
#Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA (11-2)

Athens, GA
A. 30 Georgia Southern
S. 6 Central Michigan
S. 13 at South Carolina
S. 20 at Arizona State
S. 27 Alabama
O. 11 Tennessee
O. 18 Vanderbilt
O. 25 at LSU
N. 1 #Florida
N. 8 at Kentucky
N. 15 at Auburn
N. 29 Georgia Tech
#Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY (8-5)

Lexington, KY
A. 31 at Louisville
S. 6 Norfolk State
S. 13 Middle Tennessee
S. 27 Western Kentucky
O. 4 at Alabama
O. 11 South Carolina
O. 18 Arkansas
O. 25 at Florida
N. 1 at Mississippi State
N. 8 Georgia
N. 15 Vanderbilt
N. 29 Tennessee

LSU (12-2)

Baton Rouge, LA
A. 30 Appalachian State
S. 6 Troy
S. 13 North Texas
S. 20 at Auburn
S. 27 Mississippi State
O. 11 at Florida
O. 18 at South Carolina
O. 25 Georgia
N. 1 Tulane
N. 8 Alabama
N. 22 Ole Miss
N. 28 #Arkansas
#Little Rock, AR

MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-5)

Starkville, MS
A. 30 at Louisiana Tech
S. 6 SE Louisiana
S. 13 Auburn
S. 20 at Georgia Tech
S. 27 at LSU
O. 11 Vanderbilt
O. 18 at Tennessee
O. 25 Middle Tennessee
N. 1 Kentucky
N. 15 at Alabama
N. 22 Arkansas
N. 28 at Ole Miss

OLE MISS (3-9)

Oxford, MS
A. 30 Memphis
S. 6 at Wake Forest
S. 13 Samford
S. 20 Vanderbilt
S. 27 at Florida
O. 4 South Carolina
O. 18 at Alabama
O. 25 at Arkansas
N. 1 Auburn
N. 15 UL Monroe
N. 22 at LSU
N. 28 Mississippi State

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-6)

Columbia, SC
A. 28 NC State
S. 4 at Vanderbilt
S. 13 Georgia
S. 20 Wofford
S. 27 UAB
O. 4 at Ole Miss
O. 11 at Kentucky
O. 18 LSU
N. 1 Tennessee
N. 8 Arkansas
N. 15 at Florida
N. 29 at Clemson

TENNESSEE (10-4)

Knoxville, TN
S. 1 at UCLA
S. 13 UAB
S. 20 Florida
S. 27 at Auburn
O. 4 Northern Illinois
O. 11 at Georgia
O. 18 Mississippi State
O. 25 Alabama
N. 1 at South Carolina
N. 8 Wyoming
N. 22 at Vanderbilt
N. 29 Kentucky

VANDERBILT (5-7)

Nashville, TN
A. 28 at Miami (OH)
S. 4 South Carolina
S. 13 Rice
S. 20 at Ole Miss
O. 4 Auburn
O. 11 at Mississippi State
O. 18 at Georgia
O. 25 Duke
N. 8 Florida
N. 15 at Kentucky
N. 22 Tennessee
N. 29 at Wake Forest

SUNBELT

ARKANSAS STATE (5-7)

Jonesboro, AR
A. 30 at Texas A&M
S. 6 Texas Southern
S. 13 Southern Miss
S. 20 Middle Tennessee
S. 27 at Memphis
O. 11 UL Monroe
O. 18 at UL Lafayette
N. 1 at Alabama
N. 8 at Florida International
N. 22 Florida Atlantic
N. 29 at Tennessee
D. 6 at Troy

FLORIDA ATLANTIC (8-5)

Boca Raton, FL
A. 30 at Texas
S. 6 UAB
S. 13 at Michigan State
S. 20 at Minnesota
S. 30 at Middle Tennessee
O. 7 Troy
O. 18 at Western Kentucky
O. 25 UL Monroe
N. 8 North Texas
N. 15 UL Lafayette
N. 22 at Arkansas State
N. 29 #Florida International
#Dolphin Stadium

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL (1-11)

Miami, FL
A. 30 at Kansas
S. 6 at Iowa
S. 20 South Florida
S. 27 at Toledo
O. 4 at North Texas
O. 11 Middle Tennessee
O. 18 at Troy
N. 1 at UL Lafayette
N. 8 Arkansas State
N. 22 UL Monroe
N. 29 #Florida Atlantic
D. 6 Western Kentucky
#Dolphin Stadium

UL LAFAYETTE (3-9)

Lafayette, LA
A. 30 at Southern Miss
S. 13 at Illinois
S. 20 Kent State
S. 27 at Kansas State
O. 4 UL Monroe
O. 11 at North Texas
O. 18 Arkansas State
N. 1 Florida International
N. 8 UTEP
N. 15 at Florida Atlantic
N. 22 at Troy
D. 3 Middle Tennessee

UL MONROE (6-6)

Monroe, LA
A. 30 at Auburn
S. 6 #Arkansas
S. 13 Alabama A&M
S. 20 at Tulane
O. 4 UL Lafayette
O. 11 at Arkansas State
O. 18 North Texas
O. 25 Florida Atlantic
N. 1 Troy
N. 8 at Middle Tennessee
N. 15 at Ole Miss
N. 22 at Florida International
#Little Rock, AR

MIDDLE TENNESSEE (5-7)

Murfreesboro, TN
A. 28 Troy
S. 6 Maryland
S. 13 at Kentucky
S. 20 at Arkansas State
S. 30 Florida Atlantic
O. 11 at Florida International
O. 18 at Louisville
O. 25 at Mississippi State
N. 8 UL Monroe
N. 15 at Western Kentucky
N. 22 North Texas
D. 3 at UL Lafayette

NORTH TEXAS (2-10)

Denton, TX
A. 30 at Kansas State
S. 6 Tulsa
S. 13 at LSU
S. 27 at Rice
O. 4 Florida International
O. 11 UL Lafayette
O. 18 at UL Monroe
O. 25 Troy
N. 1 at Western Kentucky
N. 8 at Florida Atlantic
N. 22 Middle Tennessee
N. 29 Arkansas State

TROY (8-4)

Troy, AL
A. 28 at Middle Tennessee
S. 6 at LSU
S. 13 Alcorn State
S. 20 at Ohio State
S. 27 at Oklahoma State
O. 18 Florida Atlantic
O. 18 Florida International
O. 25 at North Texas
N. 1 at UL Monroe
N. 8 Western Kentucky
N. 22 UL Lafayette
D. 6 Arkansas State

WAC

BOISE STATE (10-3)

Boise, ID
A. 30 Idaho State
S. 13 Bowling Green
S. 20 at Oregon
O. 1 Louisiana Tech
O. 11 at Southern Miss
O. 17 Hawaii
O. 24 at San Jose State
N. 1 at New Mexico State
N. 8 Utah State
N. 15 at Idaho
N. 22 at Nevada
N. 28 Fresno State

FRESNO STATE (9-4)

Fresno, CA
S. 1 at Rutgers
S. 13 Wisconsin
S. 20 at Toledo
S. 27 at UCLA
O. 4 Hawaii
O. 11 Idaho
O. 25 at Utah State
N. 1 at Louisiana Tech
N. 7 Nevada
N. 15 New Mexico State
N. 21 at San Jose State
N. 28 at Boise State

HAWAII (12-1)

Honolulu, HI
A. 30 at Florida
S. 6 Weber State
S. 13 at Oregon State
S. 27 San Jose State
O. 4 at Fresno State
O. 11 Louisiana Tech
O. 17 at Boise State
O. 25 Nevada
N. 1 at Utah State
N. 8 at New Mexico State
N. 22 Idaho
N. 29 Washington State
D. 6 Cincinnati

IDAHO (1-11)

Moscow, ID
A. 30 at Arizona
S. 6 Idaho State
S. 13 Western Michigan
S. 20 at Utah State
S. 27 at San Diego State
O. 4 Nevada
O. 11 at Fresno State
O. 18 at Louisiana Tech
O. 25 New Mexico State
N. 1 San Jose State
N. 15 Boise State
N. 22 at Hawaii

LOUISIANA TECH (5-7)

Ruston, LA
A. 30 Mississippi State
S. 6 at Kansas
S. 20 SE Louisiana
O. 1 at Boise State
O. 11 at Hawaii
O. 18 Idaho
O. 25 at Army
N. 1 Fresno State
N. 8 at San Jose State
N. 15 Utah State
N. 22 at New Mexico State
N. 29 Nevada

NEVADA (6-7)

Reno, NV
A. 30 Grambling
S. 6 Texas Tech
S. 13 at Indiana
S. 27 at UNLV
O. 4 at Idaho
O. 11 New Mexico State
O. 18 Utah State
O. 25 at Hawaii
N. 7 at Fresno State
N. 15 San Jose State
N. 22 Boise State
N. 29 Louisiana Tech

NEW MEXICO STATE (4-9)

Las Cruces, NM
S. 4 Nicholls State
S. 13 at Nebraska
S. 20 at UTEP
S. 27 New Mexico
O. 11 at Nevada
O. 18 San Jose State
O. 25 at Idaho
N. 1 Boise State
N. 8 Hawaii
N. 15 at Fresno State
N. 22 Louisiana Tech
N. 29 at Utah State

SAN JOSE STATE (5-7)

San Jose, CA
A. 30 UC Davis
S. 6 at Nebraska
S. 13 San Diego State
S. 20 at Stanford
S. 27 at Hawaii
O. 11 Utah State
O. 18 at New Mexico State
O. 24 Boise State
N. 1 at Idaho
N. 8 Louisiana Tech
N. 15 at Nevada
N. 21 Fresno State

UTAH STATE (2-10)

Logan, UT
A. 30 at UNLV
S. 6 at Oregon
S. 13 Utah
S. 20 Idaho
O. 3 BYU
O. 11 at San Jose State
O. 18 at Nevada
O. 25 Fresno State
N. 1 Hawaii
N. 8 at Boise State
N. 15 at Louisiana Tech
N. 29 New Mexico State

FBS INDEPENDENTS

ARMY (3-9)

West Point, NY
A. 29 Temple
S. 6 New Hampshire
S. 20 Akron
S. 27 at Texas A&M
O. 4 at Tulane
O. 11 Eastern Michigan
O. 18 at Buffalo
O. 25 Louisiana Tech
N. 1 Air Force
N. 8 at Rice
N. 22 at Rutgers
D. 6 #Navy
#Philadelphia, PA

NAVY (8-5)

Annapolis, MD
A. 30 Towson
S. 5 at Ball State
S. 13 at Duke
S. 20 Rutgers
S. 27 at Wake Forest
O. 4 at Air Force
O. 18 Pittsburgh
O. 25 SMU
N. 1 Temple
N. 15 #Notre Dame
N. 25 at Northern Illinois
D. 6 #Army
#Baltimore, MD
#Philadelphia, PA

NOTRE DAME (3-9)

South Bend, IN
S. 6 San Diego State
S. 13 Michigan
S. 20 at Michigan State
S. 27 Purdue
O. 4 Stanford
O. 11 at North Carolina
O. 25 at Washington
N. 1 Pittsburgh
N. 8 at Boston College
N. 15 #Navy
N. 22 Syracuse
N. 29 at USC
#Baltimore, MD

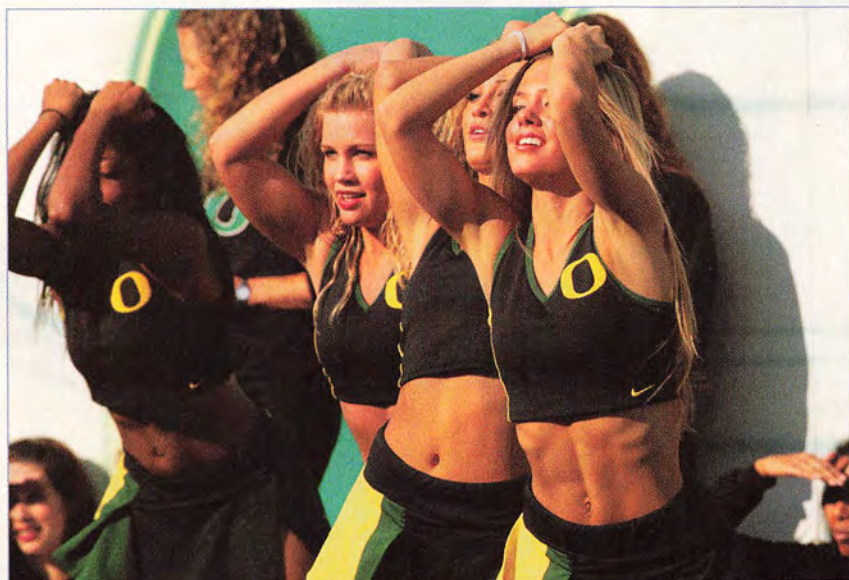
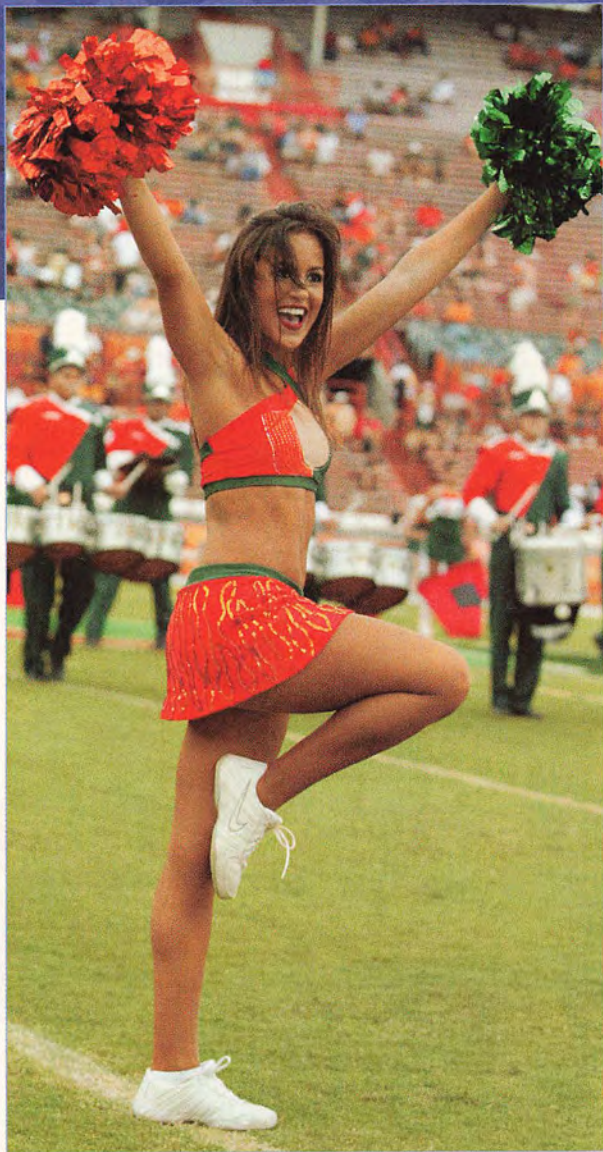
WESTERN KENTUCKY (3-9)

Bowling Green, KY
A. 30 at Indiana
S. 6 at Eastern Kentucky
S. 13 at Alabama
S. 20 Murray State
S. 27 at Kentucky
O. 4 at Virginia Tech
O. 11 Ball State
O. 18 Florida Atlantic
N. 1 North Texas
N. 8 at Troy
N. 15 Middle Tennessee
D. 6 at Florida International

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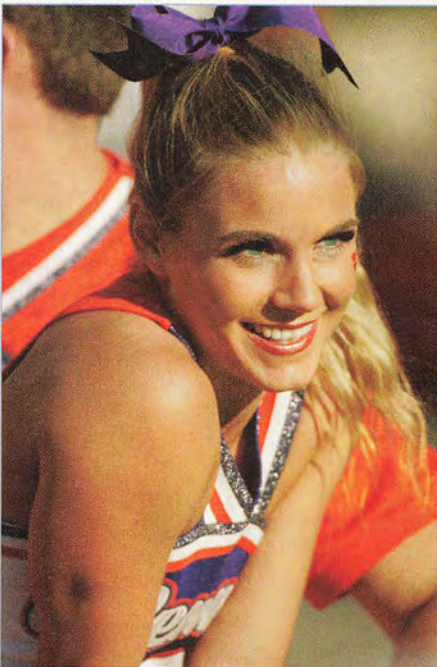
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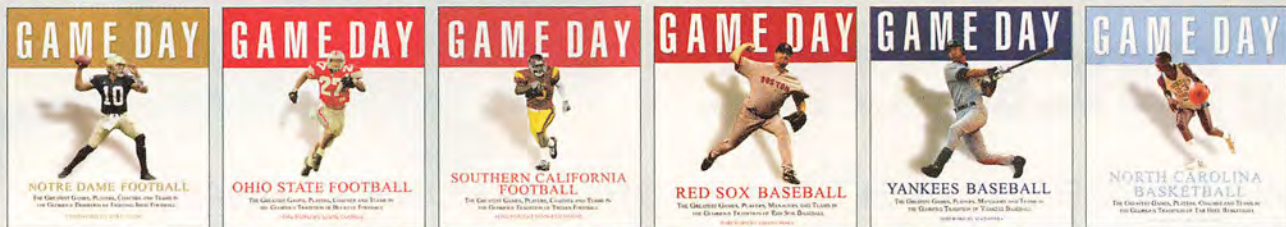
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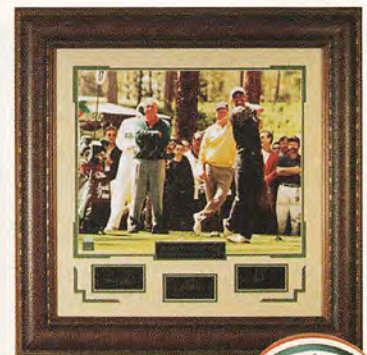
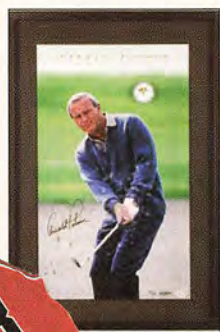
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TAILGATING2008

GET YOUR GRILL ON!



EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM OF GRILLING ON THE ROAD!

Scott Salter has always loved tailgating. However, with his quirky back, crouching over a tiny grill waiting for hot dogs to cook was never his idea of fun, and his recently purchased SUV had plenty of room in the back for a backyard grill. What could be better than bringing a full-size grill and grilling up killer barbecue before the game just like you do at home? His wife however was not as excited about the idea. "You're not putting that smelly, greasy grill in the back of our brand new SUV," she admonished him — and thus, a revolution in grilling was born. For as Scott drove to the game (in his other car) he noticed how many trucks and SUVs had hitches as standard equipment, and even the RVs parked at the game had hitch receivers.

The wheels in Scott's head started to spin, and all he could think about was finding a way to mount his barbecue outside of the vehicle on the tow hitch so that he could easily bring it to the game. It wouldn't make a mess in the car, and it would be secure like a bike rack. Almost a year after this experience, Scott and his business partners, Steve Caliguri and Ernie LeDuc, founded Freedom Grill over beer and ribs on the Fourth of July with one mission: To ensure that, "If a man dies on the road, it won't be from hunger."

A prototype of the grill and revolutionary transport system was built over the summer, and the tailgating commenced. Scott and his team went through nearly a hundred pounds of meat the first season in the San Diego Chargers' parking lot with the Freedom Grill. Thousands of tailgaters were asked what they liked about the concept and what features they needed in their grill to truly make the tailgating experience even more enjoyable. By the end of the season, the product vision was clear, and the first Freedom Grill was born just in time for the 2004 football season.

Tailgaters loved the Freedom Grill's patented swing arm because it allowed a full-size grill to be easily transported on the back of the vehicle and "swing away" from the vehicle when in use. As word of the Freedom Grill spread throughout the tailgating community, tailgating fan clubs like TheHogs.net and Pantherfanz began using the grill and telling their friends, and "The Official Grill of Tailgating™" was crowned.

As sales of the Freedom Grill picked up steam, and the fan base continued to grow, Salter was already forming ideas for how to further enhance the experience of grilling away from home. Tailgaters from all over the country were looking for something lighter and portable enough to use away from the parking lot. They also wanted something that looked cooler than a backyard grill bolted to the tow hitch. For in-

spiration, Salter turned to the Art Institute of California and its automotive design class. The challenge: Design a grill that would look like it belonged on the back of today's innovative and sleekly designed vehicles. Out of 50 concepts the top three were used as the basis of the new Freedom Grill dubbed the FG-50, a slightly smaller, lighter unit than the original Freedom Grill FG-100. The FG-50 was designed with legs to be used on a tabletop to make it easier to take camping.

"I tailgate at up to 50 games a year and I talk to a lot of people," says Joe Cahn, known as the Commissioner of Tailgating. "Freedom Grill saw a need for a grill portable enough to use for tailgating but also with enough performance and style to use it at home. They really listened to the people and developed a product versatile enough to meet everyone's needs like a utility player in an era of specialization. They took the ball and ran with it and came up with a grill that leads the (tailgating) industry."

The launch of the FG-50 made owning a Freedom Grill more affordable for the masses, but what gets Salter most excited about the FG-50 is the consumer's ability to customize it. Several parts on the grill are paintable, and custom badges are available to further personalize the grill.

"Just about everyone these days has custom faceplates and accessories for their cell phones and lap-

tops, so why shouldn't it be just as easy to change the look of your grill to match your vehicle or show support for your favorite team?" asks Salter. "The Freedom Grill FG-50 was designed to look great on the back of trucks, SUVs and RVs, and the growth in automotive customization has been phenomenal over the last few years. People want to be able to personalize their vehicles. We already made it easier to take your grill on the road, and now we've made it easier to customize the look of your grill to match your ride."

The company expects to begin offering pre-painted and patterned trim kits "Grill Skins" before the start of the '08 football season.

Salter has come a long way from trying to jam a grill into the back of his SUV. Freedom Grill now offers two swing away gas barbecues with an even more portable "entry level" model expected shortly, and two giant towable trailer grills for catering and large parties. They even have their own line of award-winning Fire Brand Grilling Sauces. And that "brand new SUV" his wife wouldn't let him put the grill in? It now sports a custom flame paint job and matching Freedom Grill FG-50, and fits right in the office parking lot next to the Freedom Grill Canyon and the Freedom Grill Carnivore, two of the most Extreme Tailgating Trucks ever built. How's that for getting your grill on?



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RECIPES

FAJITAS ON A STICK

- » 1 cup Lawry's® Tequila Lime Marinade With Lime Juice
- » 1½ lbs. Sanderson Farms® boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into 1-inch pieces
- » ½ medium green bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- » ½ medium onion, cut into ½-inch slices
- » 16 cherry tomatoes
- » 8 (6-in.) fajita size Mission® Flour Tortillas, warmed

In large resealable plastic bag, pour ¼ cup Lawry's® Tequila Lime Marinade With Lime Juice over chicken; turn to coat. Close bag and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes. Soak 8 wooden skewers in water 15 minutes.

Remove chicken from marinade, discarding marinade. On skewers, alternately thread chicken, green pepper, onion and tomatoes. Grill or broil, turning once and brushing frequently with remaining ¼ cup marinade, 15 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Remove chicken and vegetables from wooden skewers. Serve on tortillas and, if desired, with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.

Also terrific with Lawry's® Mesquite Marinade With Lime Juice.

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 18 minutes

Serves: 8



JAMAICAN JERK CHICKEN

Take a Jamaican vacation in your very own backyard. This flavorful marinade gives your grilled chicken a spicy hint of true Jamaican "jerk" cooking.

- » 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- » 8 medium green onions, sliced (½ cup)
- » 1 small red bell pepper, chopped (½ cup)
- » 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- » 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- » 1 teaspoon curry powder
- » ½ teaspoon salt
- » ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- » ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- » ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- » ¼ teaspoon paprika
- » ½ teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)
- » 6 Sanderson Farms® boneless skinless chicken breast halves (1½ pounds)

Heat oil in 8-inch skillet over medium heat until hot. Cook remaining ingredients except chicken in oil about 2 minutes, stirring frequently, until bell pepper is crisp-tender; cool.

Place chicken and bell pepper mixture in shallow glass dish; turn chicken to coat with pepper mixture. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes but no longer than 3 hours, turning chicken occasionally.

Heat coals or gas grill for direct heat.

Remove chicken from marinade; discard marinade. Cover and grill chicken 4 to 6 inches from medium heat 15 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally, until juice is no longer pink when centers of thickest pieces are cut.

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Start to Finish: 1 hour, 5 minutes

Serves: 6



TEXAS PETE® GARLIC CATFISH

SEAFOOD

- » 1½ pounds of catfish fillets, cut into serving pieces
- » ½ cup yellow cornmeal
- » ¾ cup buttermilk
- » ¼ cup Texas Pete® Garlic Hot Sauce
- » ½ cup vegetable oil
- » Salt to taste
- » ½ cup flour

In a shallow dish, combine cornmeal and salt. Put flour on a piece of waxed paper or a waxed paper plate. In another shallow dish, marinate catfish fillets in Texas Pete® Garlic Hot Sauce, stirring well. Dip fish into buttermilk mixture, shake off excess, and coat with flour. Dip again in buttermilk mixture, then coat with seasoned cornmeal. In large, heavy skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat until hot. Fry fish about 5 minutes on each side, depending on thickness, or until fish just begins to flake. Serve with additional Texas Pete® Garlic Hot Sauce splashed on to taste.

TEXAS PETE® PLANKED SALMON

Choose an oak or cedar plank only to fit your oven. You can use a baking sheet if you don't have a plank.

- » Olive oil for brushing
- » ¼ cup Texas Pete® Honey Mustard
- » ¼ teaspoon celery salt
- » ¼ cup Texas Pete® Hot Sauce
- » 4 8-oz. boned and skinned salmon filets

If the plank is new, season it before cooking the fish. Heat oven to 250 degrees. Lightly brush one side of the wood plank with olive oil. Put the plank, oiled side up, in the preheated oven until plank begins to brown slightly: 30 to 40 minutes.

For the planked salmon, mix Texas Pete® Honey Mustard, celery salt and Texas Pete® Hot Sauce. Brush olive oil on the salmon. Season the fish with some of the mixture. Remove plank from the oven and turn temperature to 350 degrees. Put the salmon onto the plank. Brush the top of the salmon with olive oil and season with the Texas Pete® mixture. Roast salmon on the plank in a preheated oven for approximately 15 minutes; do not turn the salmon over.

This recipe works great on the grill, too! Just place the plank on the grill on medium heat, place seasoned salmon on the plank and cook with the hood down for 15 minutes; do not turn the salmon over. Cooking time may vary as to the size of salmon filet and doneness preference.

BACON CHEDDAR STEAKBURGERS

BEEF

- » 2 pounds ground top sirloin
- » ½ teaspoon salt
- » 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- » ½ cup grated smoked cheddar cheese
- » 4 strips applewood-smoked bacon, cooked crisp
- » 1 cup shredded romaine lettuce
- » Fire Brand Original Steak Sauce

Celebrate dads and grads with burgers fit for kings. Preheat the grill and form the steakburger meat into four large patties. Dust each side with salt and pepper. Place the patties on the grill and cook for 5 to 6 minutes before flipping. Then put 2 tablespoons of grated cheese in the center of each patty, and cook for another 5 to 6 minutes longer for medium burgers. Toast the buns on the grill. Watch them carefully or use the warming rack. Place the bottom buns on a plate and top with shredded lettuce. Place the burgers on the lettuce with 2 strips of bacon each and a healthy splash of Fire Brand Steak Sauce.

CHOP HOUSE STEAK

- » 1 cup Lawry's® Steak & Chop Marinade With Garlic & Cracked Black Pepper
- » 1½ lbs. top sirloin steak or your favorite steak cut

In large resealable plastic bag, pour Lawry's® Steak & Chop Marinade With Garlic & Cracked Black Pepper over steak; turn to coat. Close bag and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes, turning occasionally.

Remove steak from marinade, discarding marinade. Grill steaks, turning once and, if desired, brushing with additional marinade, until desired doneness.

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Marinate Time: 1 hour

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Serves: 6



DIPS

DEAN'S® GUACAMOLE SHRIMP DIP

- » 1 (12-ounce) container Dean's® Guacamole Dip
- » 1 cup chopped cooked shrimp*
- » 1 cup shredded Mexican-style cheddar and jack cheese blend
- » Few drops hot pepper sauce, optional
- » Choice of tortilla chips, snack crackers, bagel chips, pita chips or fresh vegetables for dipping

Combine Dean's® Guacamole Dip, shrimp, cheese and hot sauce; mix well. Serve with choice of dippers.

* You can also use two 4-ounce cans tiny shrimp, rinsed and drained, in place of the chopped shrimp.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Yield: 2½ cups

DEAN'S® DIJON & HAM RANCH DIP

- » 1 (16-ounce) container Dean's® Ranch Dip
- » ½ cup finely diced cooked ham
- » 1 tablespoon prepared Dijon mustard, or to taste
- » Choice of snack crackers, bagel chips, pita chips, pretzels or fresh vegetables for dipping

Combine Dean's® Ranch Dip with ham and mustard; mix well. Serve with choice of dippers.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Yield: 2 cups

DEAN'S® BEST EVER LAYERED MEXICAN DIP

- » 1 (9-ounce) can jalapeno bean dip
- » 1 (12-ounce) container Dean's® Guacamole Dip
- » ¾ cup sour cream
- » 1 tablespoon taco seasoning
- » 1 cup shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
- » 1 (2.25-ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
- » 1 medium tomato, seeded and diced
- » ½ cup thinly sliced green onion, including some of the green part
- » Choice of tortilla chips, snack crackers or fresh vegetables for dipping

Spread bean dip in 9-inch pie plate or similar dish with sides. Spread Dean's® Guacamole Dip on top of bean dip. Mix sour cream and taco seasoning; spread over Guacamole Dip. Top sour cream layer with ring of shredded cheese around the outer edge. Add ring of olive slices inside the cheese. Add ring of tomatoes inside the olive slices. Fill center with green onion slices. Cover and chill for at least 30 minutes and up to 2 hours. Serve with choice of dippers.

Prep Time: 15 minutes; 30 minutes chilling

Serves: 12 appetizer servings

KICKIN' CORN ON THE COB

- » 6 fresh ears of corn
- » 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- » ½ teaspoon chili powder
- » Dash of cayenne pepper
- » 2 tsp. minced fresh cilantro
- » ¼ teaspoon kosher salt

Prepare a hot fire in a charcoal grill or preheat a gas or electric grill to high. Pull back the husk to expose each ear of corn, but do not remove it. Remove the silk and then recover the corn with the husk. Run water into the ears of corn, drain the excess, and twist the husks at the top to close. Prepare the chili butter by combining the butter, chili powder, cayenne pepper, kosher salt, and cilantro in a small bowl. Place the corn directly over the hot fire. Grill for about 20 minutes, turning several times during cooking to get all sides. Remove from the grill and pull back the husks. You can either discard them or knot them at the base of the corn. Brush the ears generously with the chili butter. Serve hot.

Serves: 6

CHICAGO STYLE SMOKED SAUSAGE

- » ½ cup ketchup
- » 2 tablespoons pickle relish
- » ¼ teaspoon poppy seeds
- » 4 John Morrell® Bigger Than The Bun Smoked Sausages
- » ¼ cup chopped pepper
- » 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- » 4 hot dog buns – split

In a small bowl combine ketchup, peppers, relish, onion, and poppy seeds. Cover and chill up to 3 days.

To grill by direct heat method: Grill smoked sausage on an uncovered grill directly over medium coals for 8 minutes.

Turn smoked sausage and brush with some of the ketchup mixture. Grill for 6-8 minutes more or until heated through.

To serve, toast cut sides of buns on grill. Serve smoked sausage in the buns and top each with remaining ketchup mixture.

Serves: 4

GRILLED SAUSAGES & TUSCAN BREAD

- » 1 lb. John Morrell® sausage links
- » ¼ cup Bertolli® Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- » 1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley (optional)
- » ¼ tsp. salt
- » ¼ tsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Pepper
- » 1 loaf Italian bread (about 16 in. long), cut into 4-inch rolls
- » 1 large clove garlic, halved
- » 1 jar (7 oz.) roasted red peppers, drained
- » 3 ounces thinly sliced fresh mozzarella cheese



Grill or broil sausage, turning frequently, until done; set aside and keep warm. Meanwhile, in small bowl, combine Olive Oil, parsley, salt and Seasoned Pepper. Cut rolls in half lengthwise and brush cut half with olive oil mixture, then grill until lightly golden. Rub with garlic. To assemble sandwiches, slice sausage in half lengthwise and arrange on bottom half of rolls. Evenly layer each with roasted peppers, then cheese. Cover with tops of rolls.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4

GRILLED SAUSAGE TAPAS

- » Lemon Pepper Marinade/Sauce
- » 10 Pineapple chunks, drained
- » ½ cup Fresh Lemon Juice
- » 1 Clove Garlic, minced
- » ½ teaspoon Thyme
- » 4 Firm Plum or Cherry
- » 1 Red Delicious Apple, cut into wedges
- » Tomatoes, halved cut into 1½ inch pieces
- » 2 small Onions, parboiled, cut into wedges
- » 4-6 medium Whole Mushrooms cut into 1½ inch pieces
- » 1 Small Green and Red Bell Pepper, cut into 1½ inch squares
- » 1 Summer Squash/Zucchini, cut into 1 inch pieces
- » 2 lb. John Morrell® Summer Sausage, cut into 1½ inch pieces
- » ¼ cup Olive Oil
- » 3 tablespoons Red Wine Vinegar
- » 2 teaspoons Grated Lemon Rind
- » 2 tablespoon Sugar
- » ¼ teaspoon Fresh ground Pepper
- » ½ teaspoon Salt

In a large mixing bowl, add Lemon Pepper Marinade ingredients. Beat with a wire whisk until well blended. Add sausage pieces and coat well, turning with a spatula. Marinade in refrigerator at least 1 hour, turning occasionally. Preheat grill. Alternate sausage with fruit and vegetables on skewers in an attractive fashion. Place kabobs on grill; brush generously with remaining marinade. Grill 5 to 6 minutes — turning as needed. Brush with marinade. Serve immediately when hot.

Serves: 6

GRILLED CORN IN THE HUSK

- » 6 ears corn (with husks)
- » 1 Tbsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Salt
- » ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- » 1 tsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Pepper

Peel husks back carefully and remove silk. In small bowl, combine butter, Seasoned Salt and Seasoned Pepper. Brush each ear of corn with seasoned butter. Smooth husks over corn and tie ends together with string. Grill corn on medium heat for 20 minutes, turning every 5 minutes.

Variation: For a fresh and fat-free variation, cook corn without seasoned butter. Instead, squeeze fresh lime juice over corn then sprinkle liberally with Seasoned Salt and Seasoned Pepper.

Prep Time: 13 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Serves: 6

VEGETABLES

HEAD COACH: CHARLIE WEIS **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 22-15 (3 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 22-15 (3 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: MICHAEL HAYWOOD **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** CORWIN BROWN
 SOUTH BEND, IND. NOTRE DAME STADIUM (80,795)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE IRISH

Doubling the victory total after a 3-9 season usually is a reasonable goal for most programs, but that won't cut it at Notre Dame. Despite the titanic struggle in '07, there are ample reasons to believe that the Irish can reach seven or eight wins in '08. Depth and production along both lines will be critical. A softened schedule, coupled with what should be fairly rapid development among the younger classes, could get the Irish turned around fairly quickly. But there's no denying that the Irish were a very poor football team in '07, which makes a quick turnaround as much a psychological challenge as a physical metamorphosis. "We felt the team didn't have much confidence as we went through last year for a number of reasons," says coach **Charlie Weis**. "Confidence was one of the goals of this spring ... confidence and swagger." Weis provides plenty of both, and his players should quickly follow suit, particularly on the defensive side of the ball where the heavy-handed **Jon Tenuta** will provide plenty of influence. **Jimmy Clausen's** improved health and maturity will make the Irish a more potent offense. And with two of the top-rated recruiting classes now occupying roster spots in the freshman and sophomore classes, it's a matter of just how quickly that talent matures.



DAVID BRUTON

2008 SCHEDULE

S. 6	San Diego State	W
S. 13	Michigan	L
S. 20	at Michigan State	*
S. 27	Purdue	*
O. 4	Stanford	W
O. 11	at North Carolina	L
O. 25	at Washington	*
N. 1	Pittsburgh	L
N. 8	at Boston College	L
N. 15	#Navy	*
N. 22	Syracuse	W
N. 29	at USC	L

#Baltimore, MD
 *Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

NATIONAL FORECAST

60

FIGHTING IRISH



NOTRE DAME

Fighting Irish

Surely it's a misprint. A case of mistaken identity. Perhaps the numbers were inadvertently reversed. Three wins, nine losses. At Notre Dame?? Believe it. In fact, the Irish were 1-9 until closing the season with victories over Duke and Stanford. For most of the '07 season, the Irish played worse than their record.

A one-year mirage?

Charlie Weis is relatively certain of it, although last year's collapse was a humbling experience. A schedule that replaces Georgia Tech, Penn State, UCLA and Air Force with San Diego State, North Carolina, Washington and Syracuse should help. So will a healthier, stronger and more experienced Jimmy Clausen at quarterback, and talented freshman and sophomore classes.

Notre Dame likely won't be ready for a run at a BCS bid until 2009 or 2010. But the days of three-victory seasons should be a thing of the past.

"The players are definitely going to feel a greater sense of urgency, similar to the first year that I got here," says Weis, who led Notre Dame to back-to-back BCS bids before last year's collapse.

Pushing the envelope along with Weis, offensive coordinator Mike Haywood and defensive coordinator Corwin Brown is new linebackers coach Jon Tenuta, the renowned defensive mastermind from Georgia Tech, who found himself out of a job at the end of the '07 season when the Yellow Jackets fired head coach Chan Gailey.

Tenuta, an ornery, no-nonsense coach himself, lit a fire under the Irish defense in the spring, incorporating an attacking, "downhill" defensive approach while combining forces with Brown, who is in only his second year as a coordinator.

"It's not, 'My idea is better than yours,' or 'Your idea is better than mine,'" Tenuta says. "It's, 'This is good, so how can we get our players to do that?'"

The other notable change occurred in February when Weis, who landed the Notre Dame job based greatly on his offensive play-calling prowess with the New England Patriots, handed the play-calling duties over to Haywood, who paid his dues at LSU, Texas and under Weis for three years.

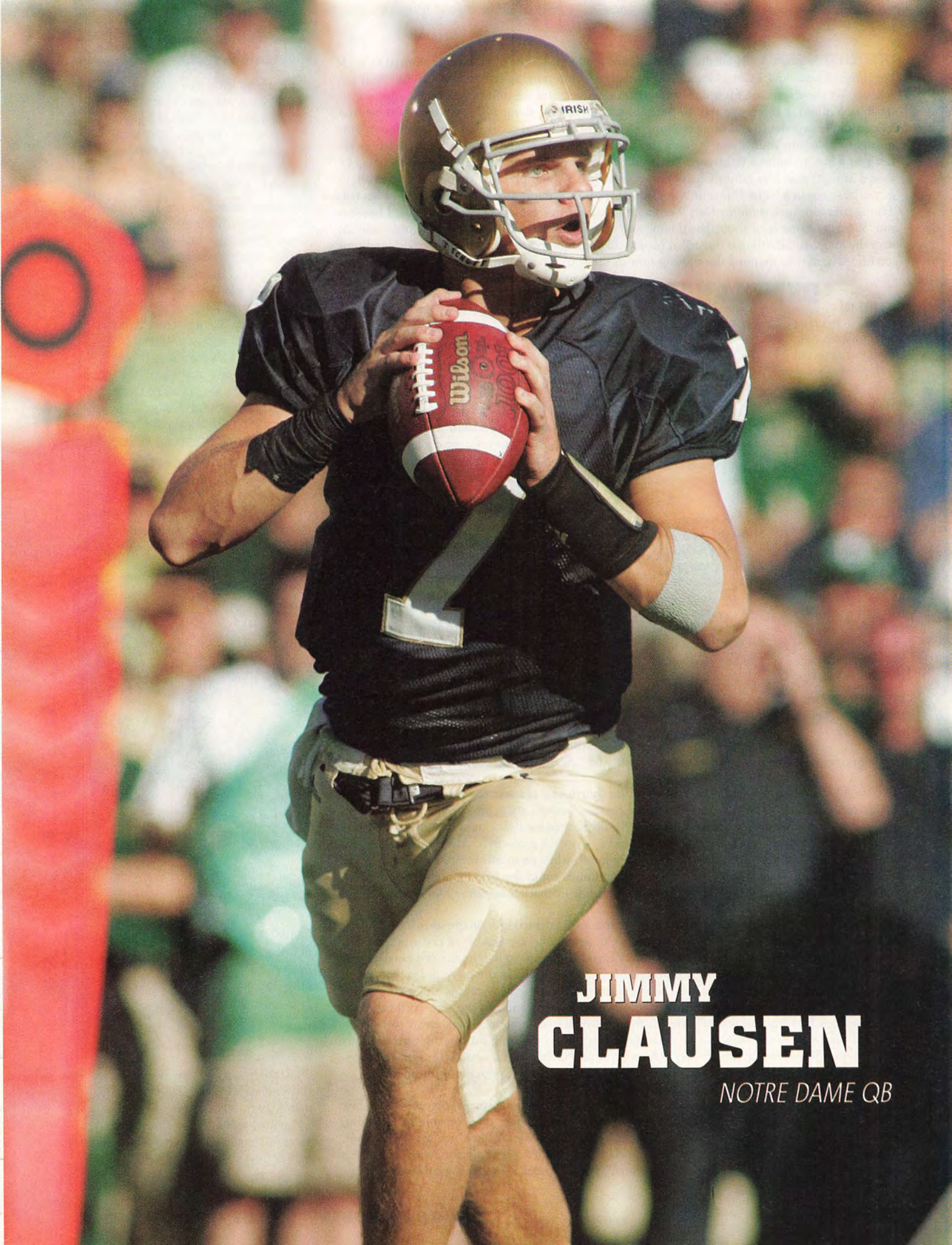
58

Notre Dame allowed 58 sacks — 4.83 per game — in 2007, the most among any of the 119 Division I-A programs.

QUARTERBACKS In the spring of '07, the quarterback job was up for grabs among junior Evan Sharpley, sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer, and freshman Jimmy Clausen. A year later, the competition was never in doubt. Frazer transferred after the spring of '07. So did Jones after losing his starting job to Clausen following the first game of the '07 season. Clausen started six straight games before giving in to injury. Sharpley started two games, lost both, and the job once again belonged to Clausen, who threw six touchdown passes in the final three games and led the Irish to victory in two of them. As Sharpley chased his baseball dream in the spring of '08, there was no doubt that Clausen was the No. 1 man. "I look at myself as a leader," Clausen says. "That's just my nature. That's just part of my personality." Clausen will get plenty of competition from freshman Dayne Crist, considered one of the top prep quarterbacks in the country last year. But barring another injury, the job likely belongs to Clausen through the 2010 season, or as long as he chooses to stay at Notre Dame.

RUNNING BACKS The Irish boast depth, talent and diversity at halfback. Junior James Aldridge (463 yards, 3.8 per carry) and sophomores Armando Allen (348, 4.0) and Robert Hughes (294, 5.5) will contend for the starting role, but all likely will contribute, perhaps with Aldridge and/or Hughes playing some fullback. Hughes rushed for 110 yards against Duke and 136 versus Stanford. "James had spurts, Robert had spurts, and Armando had spurts," Weis says. "But I don't think any of them established himself as being the guy. They're pushing each other. They all want to be the guy, and that's really turned into a very healthy situation for us at that position."

RECEIVERS Notre Dame's chemistry in the passing game figures to improve now that the Irish have settled on a quarterback. Balance over superstars seems to be the direction the Irish are heading with their wideouts, although 6'5" sophomore Duval Kamara (32 catches, 4 TDs) "has a chance to be pretty special," according to Weis. Veteran David Grimes (27 receptions) and 6'3" junior Robby Parris (29) join Kamara at the head of the pack, while small but speedy George West (21) and Golden Tate (21.8 yards per his six catches) are in the mix. Freshmen could contribute significantly with highly touted Michael Floyd and Deion Walker joining the unit. Notre Dame's leading pass-catcher in '07 — tight end John Carlson — is gone, but hard-nosed Mike Ragone should be a weapon for Clausen from the outset. Junior Will Yeatman, suspended in the spring, is the top blocking tight end.



**JIMMY
CLAUSEN**

NOTRE DAME QB

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN By far the most maligned group of '07, the offensive line allowed a mind-boggling 58 sacks and 112 tackles for lost yardage — both ranking last among 119 Division I-A schools. Yet there is reason for optimism, though reserved until the unit proves itself. Gone is center John Sullivan, a three-year starter. But four starters return, along with a couple of others who gained ample experience and came to Notre Dame with plenty of accolades. The headliner is junior right tackle Sam Young, who is now a gargantuan 6'8", 330 pounds. He played some left tackle last year when an injured right wrist hindered him from playing on the right side. He'll likely be joined at right guard by junior Chris Stewart, who is 6'5", 340 pounds. Young has started all 25 games he's been in a Notre Dame uniform while Stewart was impressive at tackle and guard last fall. Taking over at center is junior Dan Wenger, who started five games at center and guard last season. Wenger's game is all about positioning and leverage. He should be an upgrade over Sullivan over the long haul. Battling it out at left guard will be senior incumbent Mike Turkovich and junior Eric Olsen, who manned the starting spot in the spring while Turkovich recovered from off-

season appendectomy surgery. Olsen started six games in 2007. He could move into the right guard slot if Turkovich wins the battle on the left side. The key to Notre Dame's success along the offensive line hinges on senior left tackle Paul Duncan, who is responsible for protecting Clausen's blind side.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN No position on the team enters the '08 season with greater depth concerns than this unit, which lost one of the most productive players in Irish history — end Trevor Laws — who led all defensive linemen nationally in tackles with 112. Also missing from the spring was senior nose tackle Pat Kuntz (9 PBUs), who was an academic casualty but is expected to return for the fall and could move to end. Ian Williams, a 306-pounder, was incredibly productive in his rookie year as a backup to Kuntz. He finished sixth on the team in tackles with 45. Fifth-year senior Justin Brown, an on-again, off-again performer, is key to the '08 defense. The rest of the depth chart is a guessing game. Junior John Ryan started at outside linebacker last year, but now moves to defensive end, as does undersized junior Morrice Richardson. Sophomore Emeka Nwankwo could push Brown for a starting spot. A talented corps of freshmen, led by Ethan Johnson, could contribute early.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR 18 Duval Kamara (So.)	19 George West (Jr.)
WR 11 David Grimes (Sr.)	82 Robby Parris (Jr.)
LT 72 Paul Duncan (Sr.)	70 Matt Romine (So.)
LG 77 Mike Turkovich (Sr.)	55 Eric Olsen (Jr.)
C 51 Dan Wenger (Jr.)	67 Thomas Bemenderfer (Sr.)
RG 59 Chris Stewart (Jr.)	55 Eric Olsen (Jr.)
RT 74 Sam Young (Jr.)	75 Taylor Dever (Fr.)
TE 83 Mike Ragone (So.)	84 Will Yeatman (Jr.)
QB 7 Jimmy Clausen (So.)	13 Evan Sharpley (Sr.)
FB 44 Asaph Schwapp (Sr.)	30 Steve Paskorz (So.)
HB 34 James Aldridge (Jr.)	5 Armando Allen (So.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE 96 Pat Kuntz (Sr.)	90 John Ryan (Jr.)
NT 95 Ian Williams (So.)	93 Paddy Mullen (Jr.)
DE 94 Justin Brown (Sr.)	91 Emeka Nwankwo (So.)
OLB 58 Brian Smith (So.)	41 Scott Smith (Sr.)
ILB 40 Maurice Crum Jr. (Sr.)	48 Steve Quinn (Sr.)
ILB 49 Toryan Smith (Jr.)	42 Kevin Washington (Sr.)
OLB 56 Kerry Neal (So.)	97 Kallen Wade (Jr.)
CB 2 Darrin Walls (Jr.)	4 Gary Gray (So.)
CB 20 Terrail Lambert (Sr.)	8 Raeshon McNeil (Jr.)
SS 28 Kyle McCarthy (Sr.)	31 Sergio Brown (Jr.)
FS 27 David Bruton (Sr.)	29 Jashaad Gaines (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 14 Brandon Walker (So.)	KR 5 Armando Allen (So.)
P 43 Eric Maust (Jr.)	PR 11 David Grimes (Sr.)

LINEBACKERS Maurice Crum Jr., returns for his fourth year as a starter. Though undersized, he is the leader of the Irish defense and a two-time captain. Junior Toryan Smith, a hard-hitting, prototype middle linebacker, replaces heady but physically limited Joe Brockington. Sophomores Kerry Neal and Brian Smith — two bright lights as rookies — are the projected outside linebackers. Senior Scott Smith should be a key contributor off the bench while physically impressive Kallen Wade, a converted defensive end, needs to step forward. Freshmen could also help fill out the depth chart, led by outside linebacker/end Darius Fleming and inside linebacker Anthony McDonald.

DEFENSIVE BACKS This is perhaps the deepest and most talented unit on the squad, particularly at safety, where the Irish may have as many as six or seven who are capable of contributing. The star-in-the-making appears to be senior free safety David Bruton, who has the size and range to play on the next level. He'll be joined by senior Kyle McCarthy, who shows the savvy and tackling skills to capably replace Tom Zbikowski. Also showing star quality in pass coverage is junior cornerback Darrin Walls, who has worked diligently to improve his strength and run support. He'll be joined at cornerback by fifth-year senior Terrail Lambert, who'll need a bounce-back effort to hold off talented junior Raeshon McNeil and sophomore Gary Gray. Fighting for playing time at safety will be senior Ray Herring, juniors Sergio Brown, Jashaad Gaines and Leonard Gordon, and sophomore Harrison Smith, who got a peek at linebacker in pass coverage situations in the spring.

SPECIALISTS Although strong-legged punter Geoff Price (41.9-yard average) is gone, junior Eric Maust, who averaged 42.1 yards on 21 punts, appears to be a more-than-capable replacement. Questions remain at kicker, where sophomore Brandon Walker (6-of-12 field goals) is on the spot. Weis said he'd turn to the soccer team for candidates if he didn't enter fall camp with faith in his kickers. Allen is a breakaway threat on kick returns, while Grimes is a reliable punt returner.

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

On the attack Maurice Crum Jr. has bought into linebackers coach Jon Tenuta's aggressive style of play. The coach's mantra is "press the line of scrimmage." "That's his No. 1 thing. He wants us to attack more and be more aggressive," Crum says.

A helping hand Now that Jimmy Clausen is the starting quarterback, that doesn't mean he's going to take on a heavy-handed approach with his teammates. "Some guys, if you yell at them, they're going to go into the tank, and then you're not going to get anything out of them," Clausen says. "But if you talk to them about it, you'll get more out of them." Clausen will leave the yelling to others. "That's what the coaches are for, to get on (the players) when they do things wrong," Clausen says. "I'm just trying to encourage them and keep their spirits up, and trying to make everyone better."

Everybody's All-American Most in the Notre Dame camp expect senior safety David Bruton to play to an All-American level this season. "He plays with a confidence and a swagger. He expects to be a good football player," says Weis.



MAURICE CRUM JR.

RIISING STAR

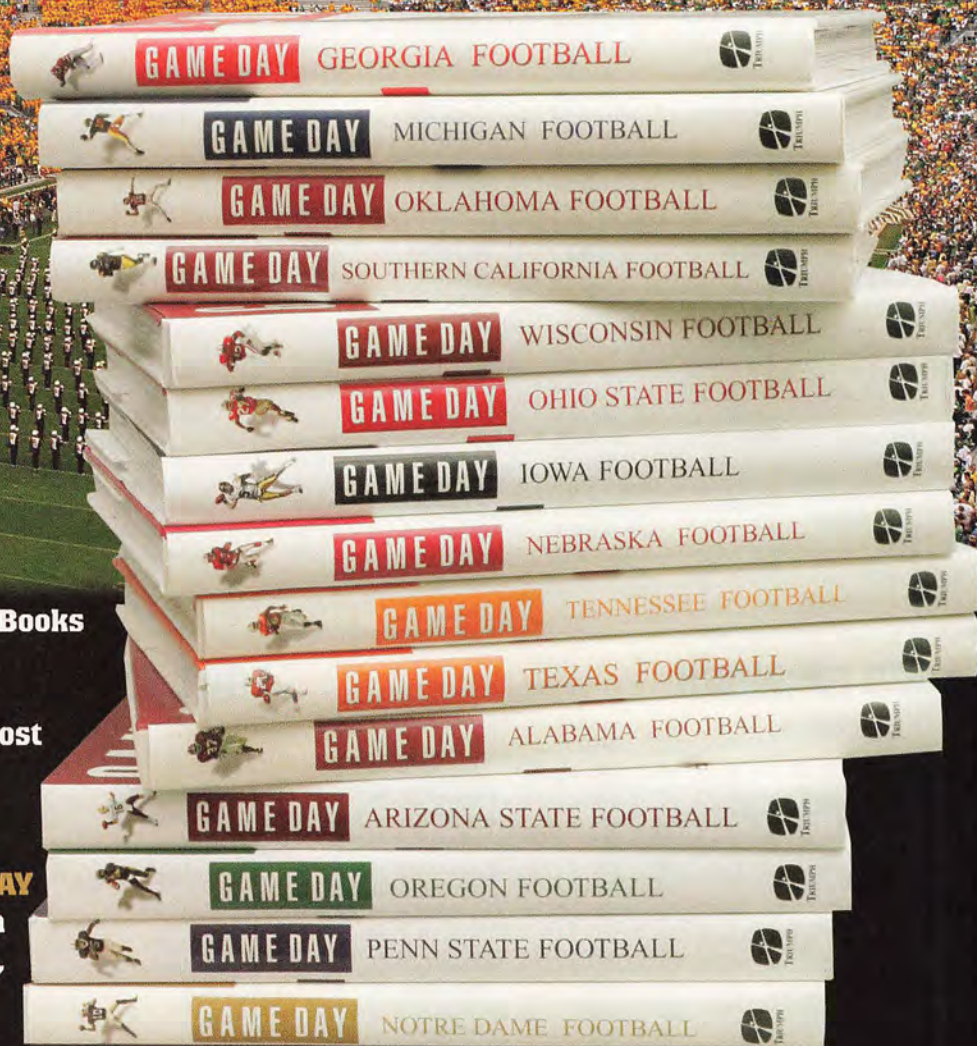
Caught in a logjam of talent his rookie season, tight end **Mike Ragone** snagged only one pass for seven yards in '07. But with John Carlson off to the NFL, Konrad Reuland's transfer and Will Yeatman's spring suspension, the 6'5", 240-pound sophomore with deceptive speed and an ill-tempered mood on the field figures to become a favorite of Jimmy Clausen early in the '08 season.



Crum: Joe Robbins

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2008 NOTRE DAME ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

15	Castello, Brian	6-2/191	So.
7	Clausen, Jimmy	6-3/207	So.
12	Lezynski, Nick	5-8/157	So.
13	Sharpley, Evan	6-2/216	Sr.

RUNNING BACKS

34	Aldridge, James	6-0/222	Jr.
5	Allen, Armando	5-10/190	So.
33	Hughes, Robert	5-11/238	So.
47	Narvaez, Mike	5-11/231	Jr.
37	Noel, Eras	5-8/190	So.
50	Paskorz, Steve	6-2/235	So.
41	Rodriguez, Nikolas	5-11/205	Sr.
32	Schmidt, Luke	6-4/248	Jr.
44	Schwapp, Asaph	6-0/261	Sr.
46	Vittoria, Joe	5-11/244	Jr.

RECEIVERS

24	Coughlin, Brian	6-0/172	Jr.
42	Franco, Dan	5-10/188	Jr.
21	Gallup Jr., Barry	5-11/185	Jr.
29	Garcia, Michael	6-1/178	So.
11	Grimes, David	5-10/177	Sr.
38	Gurries, Christopher	5-10/181	So.
1	Hord, D.J.	6-1/196	Sr.
80	Jackson, Richard	6-3/204	Jr.
18	Kamara, Duval	6-5/222	So.
82	Parris, Robby	6-3/209	Jr.
45	Patterson, Kristopher	5-11/185	Sr.
23	Tate, Golden	5-11/188	So.
85	Vos, Sam	5-10/199	Jr.
19	West, George	5-8/197	Jr.

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

So.	Pittsburgh, PA
So.	Westlake Village, CA
So.	Newton, PA
Sr.	Marshall, MI

TIGHT ENDS

39	Brooks, Kevin
86	Kuppich, Paul
83	Ragone, Mike
84	Will Yeatman

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

67	Bemenderfer, Thomas
75	Dever, Taylor
72	Duncan, Paul
62	Flavin, Bill
76	Nuss, Andrew
55	Olsen, Eric
78	Robinson, Trevor
70	Romine, Matt
59	Stewart, Chris
63	Tisak, Jeff
77	Turkovich, Mike
51	Wenger, Dan
74	Young, Sam

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

94	Brown, Justin
98	Cwynar, Sean
69	Inzunza, Dorian
96	Kuntz, Pat
93	Mullen, Paddy
91	Nwankwo, Emeke
61	Quintana, Martin
53	Richardson, Morrice
90	Ryan, John
95	Williams, Ian

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Jr.	Thousand Oaks, CA
Sr.	Westerville, OH
So.	Cherry Hill, NJ
Jr.	San Diego, CA

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Sr.	Mishawaka, IN
Fr.	Grass Valley, CA
Sr.	Dallas, GA
So.	Darien, IL
Fr.	Ashburn, VA
Jr.	Staten Island, NY
Fr.	Elkhorn, NE
So.	Tulsa, OK
Jr.	Spring, TX
Sr.	Duluth, MN
Sr.	Bedford, PA
Jr.	Coral Springs, FL
Jr.	Coral Springs, FL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Sr.	Clinton, MD
Fr.	Woodstock, IL
Sr.	Indio, CA
Sr.	Indianapolis, IN
So.	St. Louis, MO
Jr.	Miramar, FL
Jr.	Berwyn, IL
Jr.	College Park, GA
Jr.	Westlake, OH
So.	Altamonte Springs, FL

LINEBACKERS

64	Burke, Tom
40	Crum, Maurice
47	Nagel, Aaron
56	Neal, Kerry
48	Quinn, Steve
58	Smith, Brian
35	Smith, Kevin
41	Smith, Scott
49	Smith, Toryan
97	Wade, Kallen
42	Washington, Kevin

DEFENSIVE BACKS

37	Anello, Mike
38	Bathon, Chris
31	Brown, Sergio
27	Bruton, David
29	Gaines, Jashaad
24	Gordon, Leonard
4	Gray, Gary
6	Herring, Ray
20	Lambert, Terrail
43	Leonis, John
28	McCarthy, Kyle
8	McNeil, Raeshon
22	Smith, Harrison
2	Walls, Darrin

SPECIALISTS

39	Burkhart, Ryan (K)
43	Maust, Eric (P)
14	Walker, Brandon (K)
35	Whitaker, Nate (K)

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Jr.	New City, NY
Sr.	Tampa, FL
Fr.	Lemont, IL
So.	Bunn, NC
Sr.	Cherry Hill, NJ
So.	Overland Park, KS
Sr.	Gainesville, FL
Sr.	Highland Park, IL
Jr.	Rome, GA
Jr.	Cincinnati, OH
Sr.	Sugar Land, TX

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Sr.	Orland Park, IL
Jr.	Pleasantville, NY
Jr.	Maywood, IL
Sr.	Miamisburg, OH
Jr.	Las Vegas, NV
Jr.	Clarksville, TN
So.	Columbia, SC
Sr.	Melbourne, FL
Sr.	Bakersfield, CA
Sr.	Medford, OR
Sr.	Youngstown, OH
Jr.	Cooleemee, NC
Fr.	Knoxville, TN
Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

Jr.	Wakarusa, IN
Jr.	Atlanta, GA
So.	Findlay, OH
Jr.	San Diego, CA

2008 SIGNEES

Robert Blanton	DB	6-1	175
Braxton Cave	OL	6-3	292
Lane Clelland	OL	6-5	265
Dayne Crist	QB	6-5	225
Sean Cwynar	DL	6-4	283
Joseph Fauria	TE	6-7	250
Steve Filer	LB	6-4	220
Darius Fleming	LB	6-2	230
Michael Floyd	WR	6-3	200
Mike Golic	OL	6-5	265
John Goodman	WR	6-3	186
Jonas Gray	RB	5-11	214
Ethan Johnson	DL	6-4	265
Kapron Lewis-Moore	DE	6-4	230
Dan McCarthy	DB	6-2	190
Anthony McDonald	LB	6-3	220
Brandon Newman	DL	6-1	305
David Posluszny	LB	6-2	214
Trevor Robinson	OL	6-5	304
Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-7	235
Jamoris Slaughter	DB	6-1	180
Deion Walker	WR	6-3	185
Hafis Williams	DL	6-4	295

Matthews, NC
Mishawaka, IN
Owings Mills, MD
Sherman Oaks, CA
Woodstock, IL
Encino, CA
Chicago, IL
Chicago, IL
Saint Paul, MN
West Hartford, CT
Fort Wayne, IN
Beverly Hills, MI
Portland, OR
Weatherford, TX
Youngstown, OH
Sherman Oaks, CA
Louisville, KY
Aliquippa, PA
Elkhorn, NE
Cincinnati, OH
Tucker, GA
Christchurch, VA
Elizabeth, NJ

The Irish signed one of the top classes in the country, highlighted by a strong corps of defensive linemen, wide receivers, tight ends and quarterback Dayne Crist. Defensive end Ethan Johnson and end/outside linebacker Darius Fleming could be instant-impact contributors on a front lacking depth. Receivers Michael Floyd and Deion Walker also could impact a pass-catching corps shy on game-breakers. Notre Dame lost John Carlson to graduation and Konrad Reuland to transfer, so tight end was a need position. The Irish filled those spots with five-star prospect Kyle Rudolph and Joseph Fauria, the nephew of former Colorado great Christian. Crist, one of 14 Notre Dame freshmen who participated in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, could contend for the No. 2 job behind Jimmy Clausen as early as this fall. Defensive end Sean Cwynar and offensive guard Trevor Robinson got a jump on the competition when they enrolled at Notre Dame in January and participated in spring drills.

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Georgia Tech	L	33- 3	80,795
S. 8	at Penn State	L	31-10	110,078
S. 15	at Michigan	L	38- 0	111,178
S. 22	Michigan State	L	31-14	80,795
S. 29	at Purdue	L	33-19	65,250
O. 6	at UCLA	W	20- 6	78,543
O. 13	Boston College	L	27-14	80,795
O. 20	USC	L	38- 0	80,795
N. 3	Navy	L	(ot) 46-44	80,795
N. 10	Air Force	L	41-24	80,795
N. 17	Duke	W	28- 7	80,795
N. 24	at Stanford	W	21-14	48,953

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jimmy Clausen	245	138	1,254	7	6
Evan Sharpley	140	77	736	5	3
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
James Aldridge	121	463	3.8	0	
Armando Allen	86	348	4.0	0	
Robert Hughes	53	294	5.5	4	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
John Carlson	40	372	9.3	3	
Duval Kamara	32	357	11.2	4	
Robby Parris	29	361	12.4	1	
David Grimes	27	224	8.3	2	

Kicking: Brandon Walker, 6-12 FGs, 22-23 XPs, 40 points

Tackles: Trevor Laws, 112; Joe Brockington, 108

Sacks: Trevor Laws, 4

Interceptions: David Bruton, 3

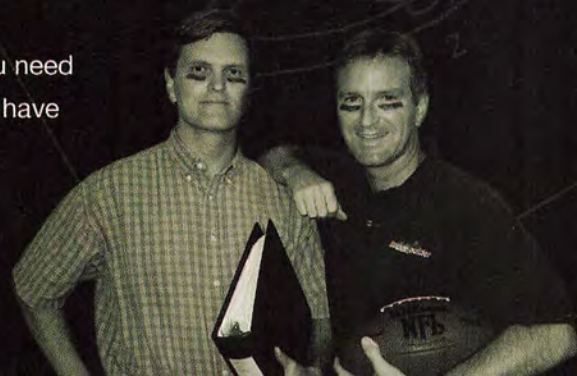
Returning Players in Bold

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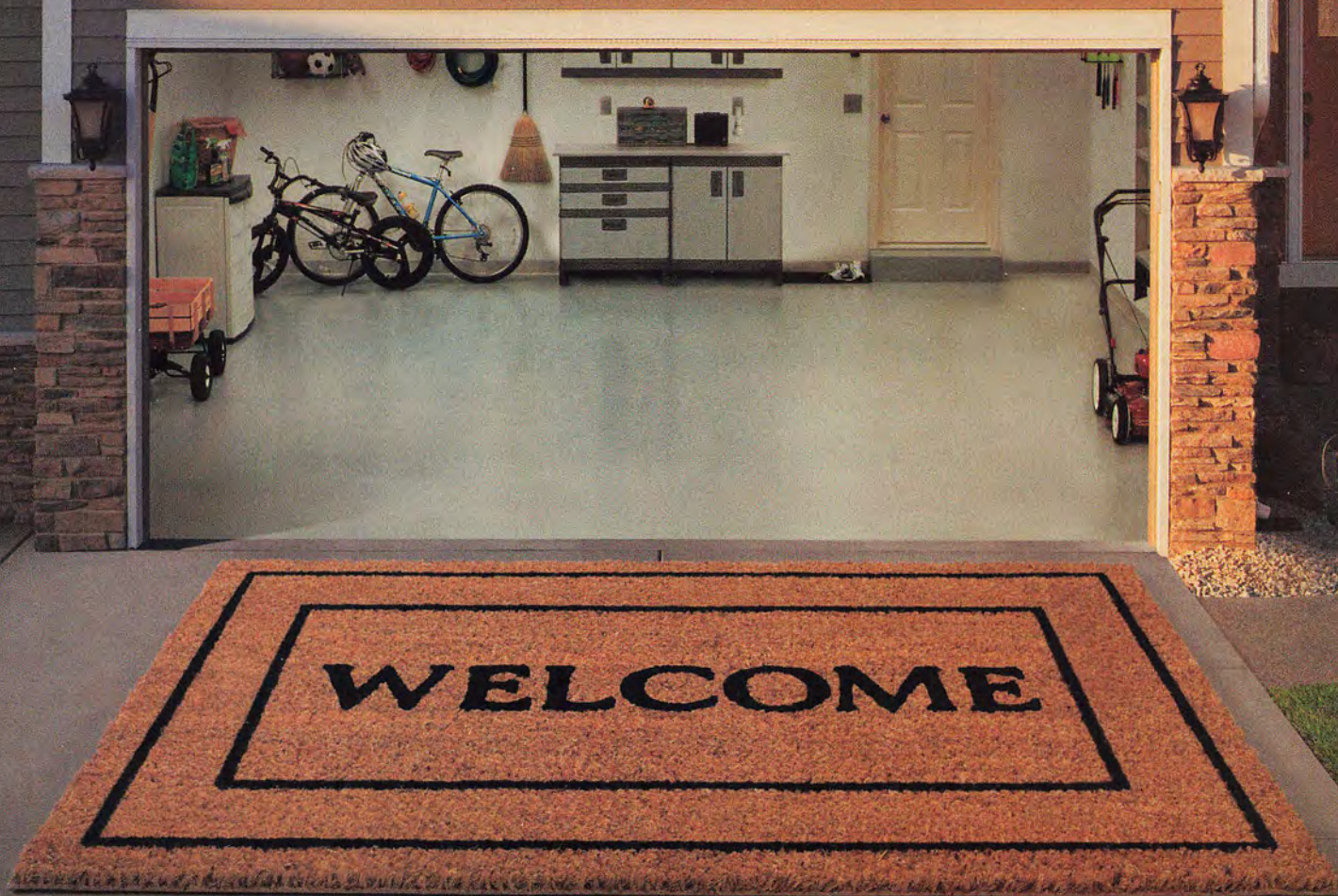
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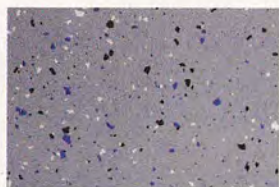
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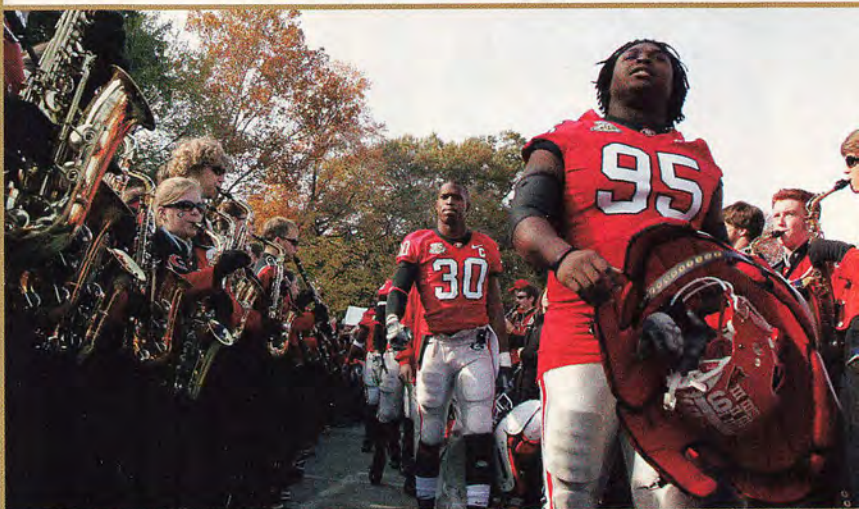
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preview



PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

SEC EAST

1. FLORIDA
2. GEORGIA
3. TENNESSEE
4. SOUTH CAROLINA
5. KENTUCKY
6. VANDERBILT

SEC WEST

1. AUBURN
2. LSU
3. ALABAMA
4. MISSISSIPPI STATE
5. ARKANSAS
6. OLE MISS

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
FLORIDA OVER AUBURN

Two years removed from the 2006 national championship, Florida once again will be looking down at the rest of the college football world from that lofty perch. The return of the first sophomore ever to win a Heisman Trophy is only one of many arguments in favor of assigning Florida preseason No. 1 status. Mr. Touchdown — Gator quarterback Tim Tebow — brought a third Heisman to Gainesville by putting the ball in the end zone through the air and on the ground with alarming regularity.

But Tebow is only one of the arrows in coach Urban Meyer's quiver. Percy Harvin has run for over 1,000 yards, caught 93 passes and scored 15 touchdowns over the last two years. USC transfer Emmanuel Moody and a healthy Chris Rainey should add even more punch to the Gator ground attack, while highly regarded junior college transfer Carl Moore and tight end Cornelius Ingram join Harvin in the nation's top pass-catching contingent. And all of this skill will be operating with the aid of a veteran offensive line. Brandon Spikes and Dustin Doe both rank among the best linebackers in America, and along with end Jermaine Cunningham, cornerback Wondy Pierre-Louis and safety Major Wright form the backbone of a stout defense.

If Florida stumbles on the way to the BCS National Championship game in Miami, Georgia could be there instead. The World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail party on Nov. 1 could be for more than SEC East bragging rights. Quarterback Matthew Stafford and running back Knowshon Moreno will keep the Bulldogs' offense potent and balanced. And an offensive line that featured three freshmen in 2007 is now a more cohesive, experienced group.

There aren't any weaknesses on either side of the ball. Linebacker Dannel Ellerbe and tackle Geno Atkins headline what should be a stellar front seven, and ball-hawking cornerbacks Asher Allen and Prince Miller lead the secondary.

Tennessee will field one of the nation's top rushing attacks, featuring Arian Foster and Montario Hardesty, with All-America guard Anthony Parker and a veteran offensive line clearing the way. South Carolina's pass-catch combo of Chris Smelley-to-Kenny McKinley will keep opponents' defenses on their toes. Kentucky and Vanderbilt simply have to replace too many top-line players to make much noise in 2008.

We got a look at Auburn's new-look offense in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, a 23-20 victory over Clemson. Quarterback Kodi Burns won the game on a seven-yard run in overtime. Tony Franklin was brought in from the staff at Troy before the bowl game to replace Al Borges as the Tigers' offensive coordinator. Burns will battle former Texas Tech Red Raider Chris Todd for the No. 1 spot in preseason camp. Whoever is at quarterback for the Tigers will have lots of proven running backs to work with and an offensive line returning all five starters.

LSU, the defending national champion, enters 2008 looking up at Auburn in the West. There are big concerns at quarterback after Ryan Perrilloux's dismissal, and on defense the Tigers must replace their top two tacklers and All-American Glenn Dorsey. Alabama and Mississippi State will battle it out for third place in the division. Arkansas must fill a huge void left by the departure of running backs Darren McFadden and Felix Jones, and like Ole Miss will be breaking in a new coach with the controversial (and highly successful) Bobby Petrino now in charge.

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SEC NOTEBOOK »

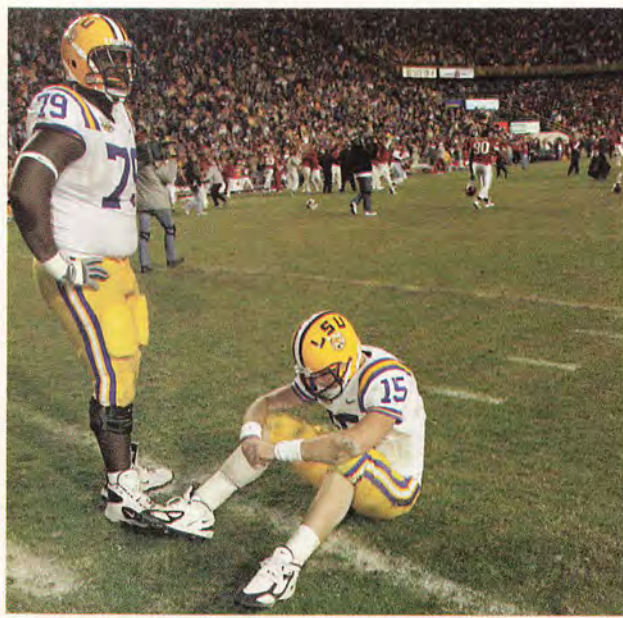
COORDINATOR CAROUSEL » It was a crazy two months for several SEC defensive coordinators. See if you can follow this:

- On Dec. 11, 2007, South Carolina defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix departed Columbia for Ole Miss.
- On Dec. 19, 2007, South Carolina hired the highly respected Brian VanGorder to take over for Nix. VanGorder spent four successful seasons as the defensive coordinator at Georgia (2001-04) before moving on for one-year stints with the Jacksonville Jaguars (linebackers), Georgia Southern (head coach) and the Atlanta Falcons (linebackers).
- On Dec. 31, 2007, Arkansas hired Ellis Johnson away from Mississippi State to serve as the defensive coordinator on Bobby Petrino's staff in Fayetteville. Johnson had spent the previous four seasons as the coordinator for the Bulldogs.
- On Jan. 4, 2008, Mississippi State promoted safeties coach Charlie Harbison to defensive coordinator. Harbison joined the MSU staff in January 2007 and has also served as assistant at Alabama (twice), LSU, Clemson, UTEP and Gardner-Webb, his alma mater.
- On Jan. 24, 2008, VanGorder left his post with the Gamecocks for a job as the defensive coordinator with the Falcons. Atlanta's new coach, Mike Smith, was VanGorder's boss in Jacksonville in 2005.
- On Jan. 24, 2008, just hours after VanGorder bolted for Atlanta, South Carolina hired Ellis Johnson, who had served as Arkansas' defensive coordinator for less than a month. Johnson, a South Carolina native, had interviewed for the job in December, but Steve Spurrier opted for VanGorder.
- On Feb. 6, 2008, Arkansas completed the cycle by hiring Willy Robinson to replace Johnson as the team's defensive coordinator. Robinson previously served as the secondary coach for the St. Louis Rams.

"We have beaten three teams that have been ranked this season, and if no one believes now — they have their heads in the sand."

— Mississippi State coach Sylvester Croom, after the Bulldogs topped Alabama 17-12 to improve to 6-4.

ON THE OFFENSIVE » There were also three (less incestuous) changes among the offensive coordinator positions in the league. Tennessee hired Dave Clawson to replace David Cutcliffe, who took over as the head coach at Duke. Clawson has been a head coach on the Division I-AA level for the past nine years — five at Villanova and four at Richmond. Alabama tabbed former Fresno State offensive coordinator Jim McElwain to replace Major Applewhite, who returned to his alma mater, Texas. And Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville, in a significant philosophical switch, hired Tony Franklin away from Troy to run a spread attack. The Tigers had employed the West Coast offense under Al Borges, who was fired prior to Auburn's bowl game in December.



TWO OVERTIME LOSSES, ONE TO ARKANSAS, SPOILED LSU'S RUN AT PERFECTION.

"We were the best team in the country today."

— Houston Nutt, after his Arkansas Razorbacks stunned then-No. 1 LSU 50-48 in triple-overtime.

NOTES »

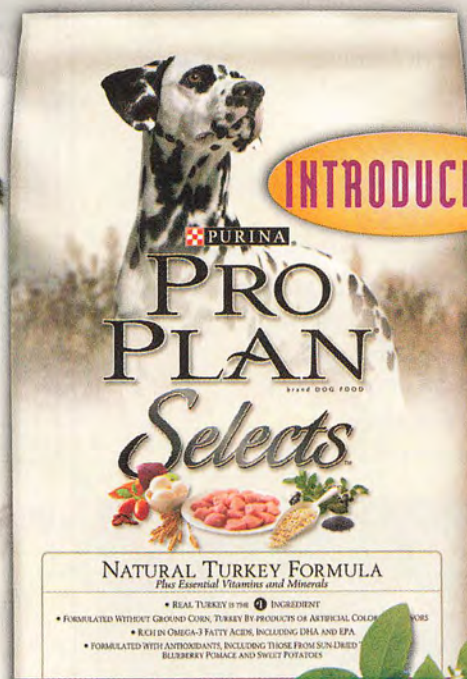
- LSU and Georgia finished the season ranked 1-2 in the final AP poll. It's the first time the SEC has accomplished the feat and the first time it's happened for any conference since 1971, when Big Eight members Nebraska and Oklahoma finished 1-2.
- Arkansas tailback Darren McFadden ended his three-year career ranked second all-time in the SEC in rushing yards. His 4,589 yards trail only Herschel Walker, who gained an amazing 5,259 in three seasons at Georgia.
- Vanderbilt's Earl Bennett supplanted former UK great Craig Yeast as the SEC's all-time leader in receptions with 236. Bennett left school with one year of eligibility remaining.



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KEY GAMES »

Sept. 20 LSU at Auburn

The last four games in this SEC West battle have been decided by an average of 3.5 points. The winner could be headed to Atlanta.

Sept. 20 Florida at Tennessee

The Volunteers will be looking to avenge last year's epic 59-20 beat-down at the Swamp.

Sept. 20 Vanderbilt at Ole Miss

Ed Orgeron went 1-2 vs. Vanderbilt. Ed Orgeron got fired.

Oct. 11 Tennessee at Georgia

Tennessee's 35-14 win in Knoxville last year wasn't nearly as close as the final score indicates.

Oct. 11 LSU at Florida

The last two national champions get together for what should be a classic in Baton Rouge.

Oct. 25 Georgia at LSU

The Dawgs visit Tiger Stadium for the first time since 2003. Could be a preview of the SEC Title game.

Oct. 25 Ole Miss at Arkansas

Houston Nutt returns to Fayetteville as the head coach of the Ole Miss Rebels.

Nov. 1 Georgia vs. Florida

The winner should take control of the SEC East race.

Nov. 8 Alabama at LSU

LSU fans have been waiting for Nick Saban's return to Baton Rouge.

Nov. 15 Mississippi State at Alabama

Can Sylvester Croom make it three straight vs. his alma mater?

Nov. 28 Mississippi State at Ole Miss

The Dawgs have lost four straight in Oxford.

Nov. 29 Auburn at Alabama

Tigers will be seeking lucky No. 7 vs. the Tide.



BIG SHOES TO FILL

MICHAEL SMITH RB, ARKANSAS

The replacement for three-year standouts Darren McFadden and Felix Jones at Arkansas has a huge task but comes in a small package. Michael Smith is 5'7", 173, but he is a breakaway threat with varsity experience. As a freshman in 2006, Smith averaged 7.1 yards on 35 rushes, then last year he ran 46 times at 6.6 per carry with an 81-yard touchdown jaunt. He has six touchdowns in his limited touches in the Arkansas backfield.

THOMAS WELCH LT, VANDERBILT

Chris Williams' career as Vanderbilt's offensive left tackle was good enough to earn first-round NFL Draft status. His replacement is Thomas Welch, who was recruited out of high school as a quarterback, then was switched to tight end after enrolling at VU. He now is an extremely athletic, 6'6", 300-pound junior who has seen significant action as a backup over the past two seasons.

CURTIS PULLEY QB, KENTUCKY

Curtis Pulley beat out Andre' Woodson in the spring of 2006 but lost the job in the fall. He played in 13 games as a receiver and part-time quarterback in '06 before sitting out last season for academic reasons. He's back now and is first in line to replace Woodson, one of the best — and most successful — quarterbacks in school history. Pulley is a dual-threat quarterback who will give the Kentucky offense a weapon it has lacked in recent seasons.

JONATHAN CROMPTON QB, TENNESSEE

Erik Ainge started 37 games at quarterback during his time at Tennessee, including all 14 last year. But Jonathan Crompton came to Knoxville three years ago as a highly regarded recruit from North Carolina. He started one game as a redshirt freshman in 2006 due to an injury to Ainge, and sports career passing stats of 38-for-78 for 498 yards and five touchdowns.

BOBBY GREENWOOD DE, ALABAMA

Defensive end Wallace Gilberry was a regular visitor in opponents' backfields over his time at Bama. The void his departure leaves should be filled capably by Bobby Greenwood, a 6'5", 267-pound senior who has appeared in every game but one, with eight starts, since arriving in Tuscaloosa. His career numbers of 14.5 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks should increase dramatically now that he is full time.

QUOTEBOOK »

"I'm not shocked at losing to Vandy. They're a good team. They were obviously a lot better than us today. We knew all along that we were sort of living on the edge at 6-1."

— South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier, after the Gamecocks — ranked No. 6 in the nation at the time — dropped a 17-6 decision at home to Vanderbilt. Spurrier had not lost in 14 previous games vs. Vanderbilt.

"Here we are, after several weeks ago we were given up for dead, going back to Atlanta in the SEC Championship to represent the East Division for the fourth time since 2001."

— Tennessee coach Phil Fulmer, after the Vols clinched the SEC East title with a 52-50 four-overtime win at Kentucky.

"I can't tell you how much fun it was in the locker room, and I wish everybody could have seen it."

— Georgia coach Mark Richt, after the Bulldogs' 42-30 win over Florida in Jacksonville.



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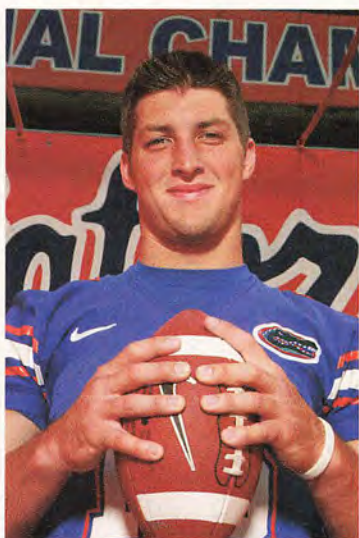
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2007 SEC STANDINGS

EAST	SEC	OVERALL
TENNESSEE	6-2	10-4
GEORGIA	6-2	11-2
FLORIDA	5-3	9-4
SOUTH CAROLINA	3-5	6-6
KENTUCKY	3-5	8-5
VANDERBILT	2-6	5-7
WEST	SEC	OVERALL
LSU	6-2	12-2
AUBURN	5-3	9-4
ARKANSAS	4-4	8-5
MISSISSIPPI STATE	4-4	8-5
ALABAMA	4-4	7-6
OLE MISS	0-8	3-9

2008 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
ALABAMA	4	8	7	3	7	7	10
ARKANSAS	8	9	12	6	4	10	12
AUBURN	5	3	8	5	6	6	6
FLORIDA	1	5	1	4	5	1	4
GEORGIA	2	1	5	7	2	3	9
KENTUCKY	10	7	10	9	8	12	7
LSU	12	6	2	1	1	4	8
MISSISSIPPI STATE	9	4	11	11	10	8	1
OLE MISS	6	11	6	8	9	9	11
SOUTH CAROLINA	7	10	4	10	11	2	3
TENNESSEE	3	2	3	2	3	5	2
VANDERBILT	11	12	9	12	12	11	5



TIM TEBOW

SEC RETURNING LEADERS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	PCT	YDS	TD	AVG/G
Tim Tebow, Florida	350	234	6	66.9	3,286	32	252.8
John Parker Wilson, Alabama	462	255	12	55.2	2,846	18	218.9
Matthew Stafford, Georgia	348	194	10	55.7	2,523	19	194.1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG	
Knowshon Moreno, Georgia	248	1,334	5.4	14	102.6	80	
Arian Foster, Tennessee	245	1,193	4.9	12	85.2	59	
Anthony Dixon, Mississippi State	287	1,066	3.7	14	82.0	30	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG	
Kenny McKinley, South Carolina	77	968	12.6	9	80.7	48	
Lucas Taylor, Tennessee	73	1,000	13.7	5	76.9	51	
Percy Harvin, Florida	59	858	14.5	4	78.0	52	

TACKLES: Brandon Spikes, Florida (131); Rico McCoy, Tennessee (106)

SACKS: Greg Hardy, Ole Miss (10); Jeremy Jarmon, Kentucky (9)

2007 SEC TEAM STATS & RANKINGS

	OFFENSE				DEFENSE			
	SCORE	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	SCORE	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL
ALABAMA	27.1 (7)	149.2 (8)	224.5 (6)	373.8 (7)	22.0 (4)	124.2 (4)	221.3 (9)	345.5 (6)
ARKANSAS	37.3 (3)	286.5 (1)	163.5 (11)	450.0 (2)	26.5 (9)	160.2 (8)	205.4 (6)	365.6 (8)
AUBURN	24.2 (9)	156.9 (5)	178.2 (9)	335.2 (10)	16.9 (1)	124.7 (5)	173.2 (2)	297.9 (2)
FLORIDA	42.5 (1)	200.2 (3)	257.0 (4)	457.2 (1)	25.5 (8)	103.3 (1)	258.5 (12)	361.8 (7)
GEORGIA	32.6 (5)	177.2 (4)	198.4 (8)	375.6 (6)	20.2 (3)	109.9 (3)	213.3 (8)	323.2 (3)
KENTUCKY	36.5 (4)	155.5 (6)	287.9 (1)	443.4 (3)	29.6 (12)	191.1 (10)	206.1 (7)	397.2 (10)
LSU	38.6 (2)	214.1 (2)	225.3 (5)	439.4 (4)	19.9 (2)	106.1 (2)	182.7 (4)	288.8 (1)
MISS. STATE	21.5 (11)	137.2 (10)	159.9 (12)	297.2 (12)	23.2 (6)	156.8 (7)	174.9 (3)	331.8 (5)
OLE MISS	20.1 (12)	131.5 (11)	213.8 (7)	345.2 (9)	28.5 (11)	199.1 (11)	224.3 (10)	423.4 (12)
S. CAROLINA	26.1 (8)	113.7 (12)	258.2 (3)	371.8 (8)	23.5 (7)	209.3 (12)	168.8 (1)	378.1 (9)
TENNESSEE	32.5 (6)	139.0 (9)	262.5 (2)	401.5 (5)	27.3 (10)	164.6 (9)	238.6 (11)	403.3 (11)
VANDERBILT	21.7 (10)	150.2 (7)	176.4 (10)	326.6 (11)	22.6 (5)	128.2 (6)	197.1 (5)	325.2 (4)

2007 SEC BOWL RESULTS

LIBERTY BOWL DEC. 29 MEMPHIS, TENN.: **MISSISSIPPI STATE 10, UCF 3** • INDEPENDENCE BOWL DEC. 30 SHREVEPORT, LA.: **ALABAMA 30, COLORADO 24**
MUSIC CITY BOWL DEC. 31 NASHVILLE, TENN.: **KENTUCKY 35, FLORIDA STATE 28** • CHICK-FIL-A BOWL DEC. 31 ATLANTA, GA.: **AUBURN 23, CLEMSON 20**
OUTBACK BOWL JAN. 1 TAMPA, FLA.: **TENNESSEE 21, WISCONSIN 17** • COTTON BOWL JAN. 1 DALLAS, TEXAS: **MISSOURI 38, ARKANSAS 7**
CAPITAL ONE BOWL JAN. 1 ORLANDO, FLA.: **MICHIGAN 41, FLORIDA 35** • SUGAR BOWL JAN. 1 NEW ORLEANS, LA.: **GEORGIA 41, HAWAII 10**
BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JAN. 7 NEW ORLEANS, LA.: **LSU 38, OHIO STATE 24**

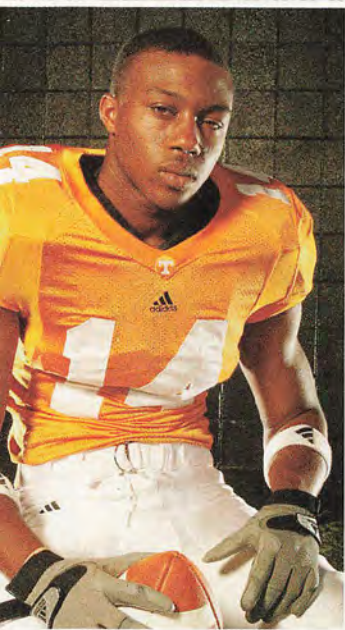


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ERIC BERRY



JONATHAN LUIGS



KNOWSHON MORENO

FIRST-TEAM OFFENSE

QB TIM TEBOW

6'3" 232 JR. FLORIDA

Heisman Trophy winner has his eyes on the bigger trophy.

RB ARIAN FOSTER

6'1" 215 SR. TENNESSEE

Emerged from a crowded backfield to rush for 1,193 yards.

RB KNOWSHON MORENO

5'11" 207 SO. GEORGIA

Could be the best Bulldog running back since Herschel.

WR PERCY HARVIN

5'11" 178 JR. FLORIDA

The most feared player in the SEC will touch the ball often.

WR KENNY MCKINLEY

6'0" 182 SR. SOUTH CAROLINA

Led the league with 6.4 catches per game.

TE CORNELIUS INGRAM

6'4" 223 SR. FLORIDA

Pass-catching tight end is another weapon for Tebow.

C JONATHAN LUIGS

6'4" 314 SR. ARKANSAS

The nation's finest center is back for one more season.

OL CIRON BLACK

6'5" 314 JR. LSU

A key figure on what should be the SEC's top offensive line.

OL MICHAEL OHER

6'5" 315 SR. OLE MISS

Ole Miss tailbacks will run often behind their outstanding left tackle.

OL ANTHONY PARKER

6'3" 300 SR. TENNESSEE

Senior guard has been a consistent force for the Vols.

OL ANDRE SMITH

6'5" 340 JR. ALABAMA

Left tackle has lived up to his enormous hype.

SPECIALISTS

K WES BYRUM

6'1" 220 SO. AUBURN

Nailed 17-of-23 as a freshman, including game-winner at Florida.

P BRIAN MIMBS

5'11" 205 SR. GEORGIA

Tied for second in the league with a 42.4-yard average.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

DL GENO ATKINS

6'1" 290 JR. GEORGIA

Could be the best player on a defense lacking in household names.

DL GREG HARDY

6'4" 265 JR. OLE MISS

Can be the league's best defensive player if he keeps his focus.

DL TYSON JACKSON

6'5" 292 SR. LSU

Shocking development: LSU has another dominating lineman.

DL JEREMY JARMON

6'3" 285 JR. KENTUCKY

Recorded 9.0 sacks from his defensive end spot.

LB DARRY BECKWITH

6'1" 232 SR. LSU

Gives the Tigers a dynamite playmaker at linebacker.

LB RICO McCOY

6'1" 215 JR. TENNESSEE

Recorded 106 tackles as a sophomore for John Chavis & Co.

LB BRANDON SPIKES

6'3" 245 JR. FLORIDA

One of the few proven commodities on the young Gator defense.

CB TREVARD LINDLEY

6'0" 175 JR. KENTUCKY

Picked off three passes during a standout sophomore season.

CB D.J. MOORE

5'10" 182 JR. VANDERBILT

Two-way threat tied for the SEC lead with six interceptions.

S ERIC BERRY

5'11" 195 SO. TENNESSEE

Can play safety or corner at a very high level.

S DEREK PEGUES

5'10" 196 SR. MISSISSIPPI STATE

Has been a key cog in the Bulldogs' secondary for years.

KR BRANDON JAMES

5'6" 179 JR. FLORIDA

Averaged 28.0 yards on his 30 returns to rank 17th in the nation.

PR BRANDON JAMES

5'6" 179 JR. FLORIDA

Ranked second in the nation with an astounding 18.1-yard average.

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Matthew Stafford	6'3"	237	Jr.	Georgia
RB	Anthony Dixon	6'1"	240	Jr.	Mississippi State
RB	Ben Tate	5'11"	215	Jr.	Auburn
WR	Lucas Taylor	6'0"	185	Sr.	Tennessee
WR	Demetrius Byrd	6'2"	195	Sr.	LSU
TE	Jared Cook	6'5"	242	Jr.	South Carolina
C	Josh McNeil	6'4"	280	Jr.	Tennessee
OL	Antoine Caldwell	6'3"	292	Sr.	Alabama
OL	Tyrone Green	6'2"	307	Sr.	Auburn
OL	Ramon Foster	6'6"	325	Sr.	Tennessee
OL	Herman Johnson	6'7"	351	Sr.	LSU

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Antonio Coleman	6'2"	250	Jr.	Auburn
DL	Ricky Jean-Francois	6'1"	281	Jr.	LSU
DL	Jeff Owens	6'3"	298	Sr.	Georgia
DL	Antwain Robinson	6'2"	258	Sr.	Arkansas
LB	Jasper Brinkley	6'2"	275	Sr.	South Carolina
LB	Dannell Ellerbe	6'1"	232	Sr.	Georgia
LB	Eric Norwood	6'1"	270	Jr.	South Carolina
CB	Asher Allen	5'10"	190	Jr.	Georgia
CB	Captain Munneryln	5'9"	185	Jr.	South Carolina
S	Emanuel Cook	5'10"	214	Jr.	South Carolina
S	Rashad Johnson	6'0"	187	Sr.	Alabama

SECOND-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Ryan Succop	6'3"	224	Sr.	South Carolina
P	Ryan Shoemaker	6'0"	192	So.	Auburn
KR	Trindon Holliday	5'5"	159	Jr.	LSU
PR	Javier Arenas	5'9"	193	Jr.	Alabama

THIRD-TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Jonathan Crompton	6'4"	222	Jr.	Tennessee
RB	Keiland Williams	5'11"	223	Jr.	LSU
RB	Michael Smith	5'7"	173	Jr.	Arkansas
WR	Brandon LaFell	6'3"	194	Jr.	LSU
WR	Mike Wallace	6'0"	180	Sr.	Ole Miss
TE	Richard Dickson	6'3"	237	Jr.	LSU
C	Brett Helms	6'2"	283	Sr.	LSU
OL	Jamon Meredith	6'5"	301	Sr.	South Carolina
OL	Mitch Petrus	6'4"	305	Sr.	Arkansas
OL	Phil Trautwein	6'6"	301	Sr.	Florida
OL	Garry Williams	6'3"	300	Sr.	Kentucky

THIRD-TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Jermaine Cunningham	6'3"	241	Jr.	Florida
DL	Peria Jerry	6'2"	290	Sr.	Ole Miss
DL	Sen'Derrick Marks	6'1"	288	Jr.	Auburn
DL	Ernest Mitchell	6'2"	305	Sr.	Arkansas
LB	Jamar Chaney	6'1"	236	Sr.	Mississippi State
LB	Rennie Curran	5'11"	220	So.	Georgia
LB	Rolando McClain	6'4"	255	So.	Alabama
CB	Joe Haden	5'11"	180	So.	Florida
CB	Jerraud Powers	5'9"	188	Jr.	Auburn
S	Reshard Langford	6'2"	208	Sr.	Vanderbilt
S	Demetric Morley	6'2"	195	Jr.	Tennessee

THIRD-TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Daniel Lincoln	6'0"	204	So.	Tennessee
P	Jeremy Davis	5'9"	206	Sr.	Arkansas
KR	D.J. Moore	5'10"	182	Jr.	Vanderbilt
PR	Dennis Rogan	5'10"	185	So.	Tennessee

TOP 20 NEWCOMERS »

1. Julio Jones (#2)	WR	6'4"	210	Foley, AL	Alabama
Easily the most physically gifted wide receiver in the 2008 class.					
2. Will Hill (#5)	ATH	6'2"	205	West Orange, NJ	Florida
Has the quickest feet in the nation and is difficult to tackle in the open field.					
3. A.J. Green (#6)	WR	6'4"	190	Summerville, SC	Georgia
Tall, lanky target is the best deep threat in the entire nation. Will need to add weight.					
4. Patrick Johnson (#9)	CB	6'1"	175	Pompano Beach, FL	LSU
The top cover corner prospect in the nation possesses a wonderful blend of size and speed.					
5. Richard Samuel (#19)	RB	6'2"	215	Cartersville, GA	Georgia
Do-everything athlete enrolled in classes in the spring at age 17.					
6. B.J. Scott (#22)	ATH	6'0"	195	Prichard, AL	Alabama
Surpassed 1,000 yards passing and rushing his senior year.					
7. Tyler Love (#23)	OL	6'7"	290	Mountain Brook, AL	Alabama
Tenacious attitude combined with ideal left tackle size and athleticism.					
8. DeAngelo Tyson (#24)	DT	6'2"	300	Statesboro, GA	Georgia
Possibly the quickest tackle prospect in the nation.					
9. Matt Patchan (#31)	OL	6'6"	260	Tampa, FL	Florida
Father played for the rival Miami Hurricanes and in the NFL.					
10. Omar Hunter (#41)	DT	6'0"	322	Buford, GA	Florida
Built like a tank. Shows great leverage and strength, although undersized.					
11. Chancey Aghayere (#42)	DE	6'4"	243	Garland, TX	LSU
Strong and powerful at the point of attack. Mental focus may be an issue.					
12. Dee Finley (#53)	S	6'2"	200	Auburn, AL	Florida
A tall, rangy athlete who excels at every aspect of safety play.					
13. Mark Barron (#58)	DB	6'2"	215	Mobile, AL	Alabama
Big, physical athlete who could be used as a running back as well.					
14. William Green (#60)	DE	6'4"	215	Hoover, AL	Florida
Shows great speed and athleticism around the edge but will need to add weight.					
15. Brendan Beal (#71)	LB	6'3"	223	Bethlehem, PA	Florida
Boston College legacy who is great at attacking up the middle. Possibly a DE.					
16. Chris Tolliver (#72)	WR	6'1"	189	Rayville, LA	LSU
Caught 24 TDs in his final two seasons. Great acceleration and separation speed.					
17. Janoris Jenkins (#74)	CB	5'11"	180	Pahokee, FL	Florida
Undersized but quick and agile corner who will fill hard against the run.					
18. Jerrell Harris (#75)	LB	6'3"	215	Gadsden, AL	Alabama
An absolute missile of a linebacker who is at his best when attacking.					
19. Charles Whitlock (#91)	CB	5'11"	170	Chester, SC	South Carolina
Do-it-all athlete who can play five different positions (CB, S, QB, RB, WR).					
20. Joe Adams (#94)	WR	6'0"	175	Little Rock, AR	Arkansas
Could play on defense as a corner or offense as a wide receiver.					

(#) Reflects ranking in Athlon Consensus 100

RECRUITING BY SCHOOL »

1. ALABAMA
2. GEORGIA
3. FLORIDA
4. LSU
5. AUBURN
6. ARKANSAS
7. SOUTH CAROLINA
8. TENNESSEE
9. OLE MISS
10. MISSISSIPPI STATE
11. KENTUCKY
12. VANDERBILT

SEC®



HEAD COACH: URBAN MEYER **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 31-9 (3 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 70-16 (7 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAN MULLEN **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** CHARLIE STRONG
 GAINESVILLE, FLA. BEN HILL GRIFFIN STADIUM (88,548)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

1

GATORS



SEC EAST
PREDICTION

1

FLORIDA
gators

Urban Meyer likes his team. He really, really likes it. He has the reigning Heisman Trophy winner on offense and a half-dozen legitimate weapons to go with him. He has a boatload of talented freshmen coming in to shore up the defense.

But football is a funny thing. There are a lot of coaches around America's toughest conference who like their teams, too. And in the end, it so often comes down to how these players deal with each other.

"I could have told you last July we had no chance (to repeat as national champions)," Meyer says. "I mean, we were still going to try, but the chemistry wasn't there. I think these guys understand that now and they are much closer. This team has a chance."

Florida was a stunning champion in 2006, Meyer's second year, but regressed with a young team in 2007. What really stung was the way the Gators closed the season with a difficult loss to Michigan in the Capital One Bowl.

In Meyer's fourth year, the players are there. He feels he has upgraded his coaching staff. All that is left is to play the games.

68

Tim Tebow accounted for 68 touchdowns in his first two seasons. He has 37 passing and 31 rushing after becoming the first 20-20 player in NCAA history last season.

QUARTERBACKS Tim Tebow has already collected plenty of hardware in two seasons at Florida. The next step in his progression will be as a manager late in games. As a starter last season, Tebow won the Heisman Trophy, but one reason Florida lost four times was Tebow's inability to rally the Gators in the closing minutes of games. "That's something I have to get better at," he says. "I think I've improved my decision-making and reading defenses." Tebow is coming off a year when he became the first player to throw and run for 20 touchdowns, and he led the Gators to a solid season in a rebuilding year. The Gators are talented if inexperienced in the back-up spots, with Cameron Newton, who played sparingly as a freshman, and John Brantley, who redshirted last year. Brantley had injuries that kept the battle for the back-up role from coming to fruition in the spring. One thing Meyer would like to do is take some of the burden off Tebow as a rusher. He led Florida a year ago with 895 rushing yards and 23 touchdowns while throwing for 3,286 yards and 32 scores.

RUNNING BACKS In three seasons at Florida, Meyer has yet to develop a dominant tailback. He thinks the addition of running backs coach Kenny Carter will make a difference. And he certainly has plenty of possibilities to choose from. The result could be a tailback by committee. Emmanuel Moody, who transferred from USC, was expected to step into the starting job and went over 100 yards in the spring game but fumbled at the goal line. Kestahn Moore ran for 580 yards last year to lead the tailbacks but also has had problems hanging onto the ball. Mon Williams missed last season with a knee injury but is in the mix. Brandon James was better known for his return game but will line up in the backfield. The wild card could be Chris Rainey, who missed most of last season with a shoulder injury. Rainey was the star of the spring game and is the fastest of the running backs. "Chris will start," Meyer says. "I don't know if it will be tailback or No. 3 receiver." Florida shifted Steven Wilks to fullback from linebacker to take over from Eric Rutledge, who left the program. But even with all of the weapons Meyer has in the backfield, the question will be who gets the ball on 3rd-and-1. Tebow will still get plenty of carries, as will receiver Percy Harvin, who rushed for 764 yards and six touchdowns and often lined up in the backfield.

RECEIVERS If Harvin is able to return to full speed after surgery on his heel in the spring, Florida has another Heisman contender. Harvin was sensational as a freshman and spectacular as a sophomore (858 receiving yards). Florida has numbers for the first time to go two-deep with five wideout sets. Louis Murphy found his niche as a deep threat last year, scoring five touchdowns. Riley Cooper battled injuries but made big plays when healthy and had a huge spring despite also playing baseball for the Gators. Deonte Thompson, a redshirt freshman, had a monster spring. Florida has to replace its all-time leading pass catcher in Andre Caldwell and may do it with Carl Moore, the No. 1 junior college recruit in the country. Moore, a 6'4" receiver, didn't show a lot in the spring, but Meyer thinks he can add to the Gator wealth at wide receiver. "He hasn't shown the burst because he's thinking too much," Meyer says. "But I've seen it." The Gators have two tight ends who are as good as any in the

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GATORS

For the first time in college football history, a team returns a junior with a Heisman Trophy on his résumé. **Tim Tebow** may not come up with the same crazy numbers he did last season, but a year's worth of experience should make him a better quarterback. So will the fact that he is surrounded by so many offensive weapons. But if Florida can't find a running back to take the 3rd-and-1 burdens off the quarterback, the wear and tear on Tebow could cost the Gators a loss as it did a year ago (Georgia). Florida's offensive line was up-and-down last year before being manhandled in the Capital One Bowl by Michigan to close the season. The Gators have to be more consistent up front to make **Urban Meyer's** spread offense as good as it can be. With all that said, Florida will only go as far as its defense will take it. The Gators won a national championship with an extraordinary defense and an average offense two years ago. If the defense improves to be just above average this season, Florida should have a special season. Three straight superior recruiting classes should give Meyer enough talent — albeit young — to deal with a brutal schedule and high expectations. A second national title in three years is well within reach for the Gators.



PERCY HARVIN

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Hawaii	W
S. 6	Miami	W
S. 20	at Tennessee	*
S. 27	Ole Miss	W
O. 4	at Arkansas	W
O. 11	LSU	*
O. 25	Kentucky	W
N. 1	#Georgia	*
N. 8	at Vanderbilt	W
N. 15	South Carolina	W
N. 22	The Citadel	W
N. 29	at Florida State	W
#Jacksonville, FL		

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Tebow/Bruce Schwartzman; Harvin: Brad Schloss



**TIM
TEBOW**

FLORIDA QB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	1 Percy Harvin (Jr.)	6 Deonte Thompson (Fr.)
WR	9 Louis Murphy (Sr.)	16 Carl Moore (Jr.)
WR	86 Riley Cooper (Jr.)	87 Justin Williams (So.)
LT	75 Phil Trautwein (Sr.)	57 Carl Johnson (So.)
LG	63 Jim Tarrt (Sr.)	68 Jim Barrie (So.)
C	56 Maurkice Pouncey (So.)	71 Corey Hobbs (So.)
RG	55 Mike Pouncey (So.)	66 James Wilson (Fr.)
RT	77 Jason Watkins (Sr.)	76 Marcus Gilbert (So.)
TE	7 Cornelius Ingram (Sr.)	81 Aaron Hernandez (So.)
QB	15 Tim Tebow (Jr.)	13 Cam Newton (So.)
TB	8 Chris Rainey (So.)	33 Kestahn Moore (Sr.)

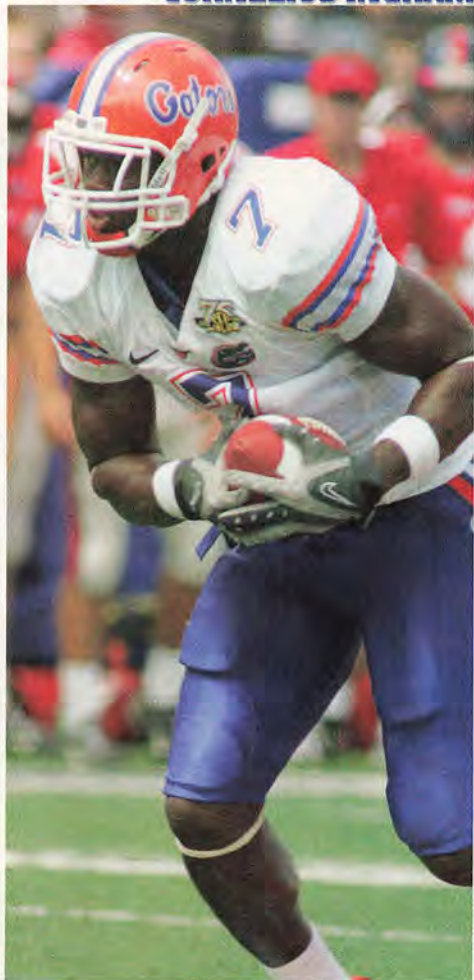
DEFENSE (8)

DE	8 Carlos Dunlap (So.)	94 Justin Trattou (So.)
DT	93 Javier Estopinan (Sr.)	99 Omar Hunter (Fr.)
DT	90 Lawrence Marsh (So.)	95 Torrey Davis (So.)
DE	49 Jermaine Cunningham (Jr.)	8 Jaye Howard (Fr.)
LB	51 Brandon Spikes (Jr.)	54 Brendan Beal (Fr.)
LB	26 Lorenzo Edwards (So.)	41 Ryan Stamper (Jr.)
LB	32 Dustin Doe (Jr.)	16 A.J. Jones (So.)
CB	12 Joe Haden (So.)	29 Janoris Jenkins (Fr.)
CB	4 Wondy Pierre-Louis (Jr.)	14 Markihe Anderson (Jr.)
SS	20 Dorian Munroe (Jr.)	35 Ahmad Black (So.)
FS	21 Major Wright (So.)	7 Jamar Hornsby (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	25 Caleb Sturgis (Fr.)	KR	25 Brandon James (Jr.)
P	17 Chas Henry (So.)	PR	25 Brandon James (Jr.)

CORNELIUS INGRAM



conference in Cornelius Ingram and Aaron Hernandez. Ingram decided against the NFL Draft to work on his blocking.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Center Drew Miller and guard Carlton Medder graduated, but the Gators have plenty of bodies to take their places. The question is whether they can perform to the level of a line that helped UF lead the conference in total offense. Maurkice Pouncey moves from guard to center and his twin brother Mike takes over at guard. Florida returns Jason Watkins at right tackle and gets a boost with the return of Phil Trautwein, who missed the 2007 season with a stress fracture in his foot, at the other. Jim Tarrt is the other returning starter. Florida has former five-star recruits Carl Johnson and James Wilson, who toyed with the idea of transferring, available as back-ups. There is no question the line has potential to be better than a year ago, but it must develop chemistry and stay healthy if Florida is going to have another stellar offense.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN In 2007, a big part of the problem for the Florida pass defense was the lack of a pass rush. Derrick Harvey, the defensive MVP of the 2007 BCS National Title Game, is headed for the NFL, but Florida is in excellent shape at the ends with Jermaine Cunningham and Carlos Dunlap. The big question is at tackle, where UF tried a rotation of undersized players last season. Meyer is so desperate to have an impact player inside he has treated the arrival of incoming freshman Omar Hunter as if he were the Pope. Hunter will play, but if Florida is going to contend for championships this season there has to be an interior push. Justin Trattou could have an impact at both tackle and end.

LINEBACKERS This is the strength of the defense. Brandon Spikes has continued the run of excellent middle linebackers at UF. He is one of the defensive leaders and will be flanked by Dustin Doe, a starter last year, and possibly Lorenzo Edwards, who played sparingly last year as a true freshman. A. J. Jones was the starter there last year, but a strong spring could allow Edwards to claim that job. Brendan Beal, an early enrollee in the spring, will help with the depth as will Brandon Hicks and Ryan Stamper. Jeremy Finch, who suffered a devastating knee injury last year against Tennessee, has been moved from strong safety to linebacker as well.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The big question at Florida is whether or not the Gators can cover this year. Florida was burned in the air by teams like Georgia and Michigan, but three starters return, and the addition of true freshmen Will Hill, Janoris Jenkins

KEY GATORS

Tim Tebow, QB It's difficult to believe that Tebow can put up the kind of numbers that won him a Heisman, but he shouldn't have to.

Percy Harvin, WR The numbers are impressive but don't begin to tell the story of how valuable he is to the Florida football team.

Cornelius Ingram, TE Ingram was almost ready to pull the trigger on an NFL career but decided to return to Florida and work on his blocking.

Brandon Spikes, LB While Florida's defense was shaky last season, Spikes was a monster in the middle and should be an All-American.

Jermaine Cunningham, DE A solid back-up as a freshman and a rising star as a sophomore, Cunningham should be ready for a breakout season.



KEY LOSSES

Andre Caldwell, WR Caldwell was the leader of last year's team. No Gator ever has caught more passes than the speedy Caldwell.

Carlton Medder, G They called him the Big Greasy, but he was the Big Nasty when it came time to plow holes in opposing defenses.

Drew Miller, C Miller shifted over from guard for his senior season, and Florida didn't miss a beat as the Gators led the SEC in offense.

Tony Joiner, SS While Joiner didn't make a lot of big plays, he was rock solid at his position and will be missed as a spiritual leader.

Derrick Harvey, DE Harvey actually had a better sophomore year than junior year, but he was a guy teams had to gameplan for last season.

RISEING STAR

Urban Meyer couldn't wait to get diminutive speedster **Chris Rainey** on campus a year ago, but an injured shoulder forced Rainey to redshirt. The tailback will be counted on this season as Florida tries to get the ball in his hands.



Cunningham: Bruce Schwartz/mean; Ingram: Al Kooistra



2008 FLORIDA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
14	Blaylock, Andrew	6-0/199	So.	Durham, NC		
12	Brantley, John	6-3/205	Fr.	Ocala, FL		
3	Frazier, Brandon	6-3/181	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL		
13	Newton, Cameron	6-5/246	So.	College Park, GA		
15	Tebow, Tim	6-3/232	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL		
RUNNING BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
48	Burgess, Rick	6-1/226	Jr.	Jupiter, FL		
25	James, Brandon	5-6/179	Jr.	St. Augustine, FL		
44	McQuay, Ean	5-8/168	Fr.	Gainesville, FL		
21	Moody, Emmanuel	5-11/206	Jr.	Coppell, TX		
33	Moore, Kestahn	5-10/206	Sr.	Arlington, TX		
8	Rainey, Chris	5-9/167	So.	Lakeland, FL		
20	Scott, Christopher	5-11/193	Jr.	Englewood, FL		
42	Wilks, Steven	6-1/207	Fr.	Lakeland, FL		
27	Williams, Mon	6-1/206	Jr.	Mesquite, TX		
RECEIVERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
86	Cooper, Riley	6-3/209	Jr.	Clearwater, FL		
1	Harvin, Percy	5-11/178	Jr.	Virginia Beach, VA		
22	Holliday, Cade	5-11/193	Jr.	Gainesville, FL		
47	Lightbourne, Bradley	6-1/188	Jr.	Longwood, FL		
16	Moore, Carl	6-4/223	Jr.	Roseville, CA		
9	Murphy, Louis	6-1/195	Sr.	St. Petersburg, FL		
83	Nelson, David	6-5/197	Jr.	Wichita Falls, TX		
6	Thompson, Deonte	5-11/188	Fr.	Belle Glade, FL		
87	Williams, Justin	6-0/192	So.	Folkston, GA		
88	Wilson, Paul	6-0/188	Fr.	Lakeland, FL		
TIGHT ENDS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
84	Casey, Tate	6-6/243	Sr.	Longview, TX		
82	Coleman, Christopher	6-3/223	Jr.	Lake City, FL		
81	Hernandez, Aaron	6-3/250	So.	Bristol, CT		
7	Ingram, Cornelius	6-4/223	Sr.	Hawthorne, FL		
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
62	Abel, Lamar	6-2/254	Fr.	Sunrise, FL		
68	Barrie, Jim	6-5/298	So.	Tampa, FL		
61	Beemer, Gary	6-1/275	So.	Valrico, FL		
76	Gilbert, Marcus	6-6/308	So.	Fort Lauderdale, FL		
65	Hiers, Brad	6-5/292	Jr.	Bartow, FL		
71	Hobbs, Corey	6-3/298	So.	Oviedo, FL		
74	Hurt, Maurice	6-2/319	So.	Milledgeville, GA		
57	Johnson, Carl	6-5/343	So.	Durham, NC		
64	Newell, Kyle	6-8/297	Jr.	Tampa, FL		
56	Pouncey, Maurkice	6-5/312	So.	Lakeland, FL		
55	Pouncey, Mike	6-5/309	So.	Lakeland, FL		
72	Schmieder, Shawn	6-4/230	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL		
60	Steinmann, William	6-5/265	Fr.	Daytona Beach, FL		
63	Tartt, Jim	6-3/300	Sr.	Sopchoppy, FL		
75	Trautwein, Phil	6-6/301	Sr.	Voorhees, NJ		
77	Watkins, Jason	6-6/298	Sr.	Lakeland, FL		
66	Wilson, James	6-4/308	Fr.	St. Augustine, FL		
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
47	Antwine, Brandon	6-0/283	Jr.	Garland, TX		
79	Autry, Jamael	6-0/249	So.	Fernandina Beach, FL		
97	Brown, John	6-1/285	Fr.	Lakeland, FL		
49	Cunningham, Jermaine	6-3/241	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA		
95	Davis, Torrey	6-3/298	So.	Seffner, FL		
8	Dunlap, Carlos	6-6/290	So.	North Charleston, SC		
93	Estopinan, Javier	6-1/279	Sr.	Miami, FL		
59	Fairbanks, John	6-4/270	So.	Celebration, FL		
6	Howard, Jaye	6-3/262	Fr.	Apopka, FL		
44	Lemmens, Duke	6-4/238	So.	Westlake Village, CA		
90	Marsh, Lawrence	6-4/285	So.	Augusta, GA		
92	Sanders, Terron	6-2/285	So.	Bradenton, FL		
94	Trattou, Justin	6-4/248	So.	Ramsey, NJ		
LINEBACKERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
54	Blackett, Roderick	5-9/221	Jr.	Pompano Beach, FL		
53	Deveaux, Jamaal	5-11/238	Jr.	Port St. Lucie, FL		
32	Doe, Dustin	6-0/211	Jr.	Jasper, FL		
26	Edwards, Lorenzo	6-2/234	So.	Orlando, FL		
18	Finch, Jeremy	6-1/203	So.	Indianapolis, IN		
40	Hicks, Brandon	6-2/207	So.	Jacksonville, FL		
16	Jones, A.J.	6-1/213	So.	Tampa, FL		
30	Jones, John	6-2/205	So.	Sarasota, FL		
50	Pintado, Chris	6-0/211	So.	Miami, FL		
51	Spikes, Brandon	6-3/245	Jr.	Shelby, NC		
41	Stamper, Ryan	6-1/231	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL		
DEFENSIVE BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
14	Anderson, Markihe	5-10/176	Jr.	Fort Myers, FL		
35	Black, Ahmad	5-9/177	So.	Lakeland, FL		
37	Brown, Vincent	5-6/163	Fr.	Gainesville, FL		
38	Campbell, Lorenzo	6-1/212	Sr.	Coral Springs, FL		
42	Carodine, Miguel	5-11/195	So.	Gainesville, FL		
17	Carr, Curtis	5-10/185	Jr.	Gainesville, FL		
24	Curtis, John	6-2/208	Sr.	Rockledge, FL		
29	Dunbar, Rashad	5-7/153	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL		
40	Goode, Kevin	5-10/168	Jr.	Weston, FL		
12	Haden, Joe	5-11/180	So.	Ft. Washington, MD		
48	Hannah, Marquis	5-9/193	Fr.	Miami, FL		
23	Henderson, Corey	6-0/159	Fr.	St. Petersburg, FL		
34	Hopkins, Reginald	5-6/167	Fr.	Miramar, FL		
7	Hornsby, Jamar	6-2/198	So.	Jacksonville, FL		
36	Jenkins, Moses	6-3/174	So.	Coral Springs, FL		
	Leigh, Levi	6-0/192	Sr.	Niles, OH		
20	Munroe, Dorian	5-11/202	Jr.	Miami, FL		
4	Pierre-Louis, Wondy	6-0/182	Jr.	Naples, FL		
45	Pratt, Kyle	6-0/184	Sr.	Gainesville, FL		
23	Rickerson, Jacques	5-10/172	So.	St. Augustine, FL		
39	Sorrentino, Joey	5-6/173	Jr.	Ocala, FL		
31	Thomas, Bryan	6-1/197	So.	Zephyrhills, FL		
28	Thomas, Chris	5-9/170	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL		
35	Worton, Cody	6-2/194	So.	Homestead, FL		
21	Wright, Major	6-0/194	So.	Miramar, FL		
SPECIALISTS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
85	Fritze, Andrew (K)	6-1/186	Jr.	Ponce Inlet, FL		
17	Henry, Chas (P)	6-4/204	So.	Dallas, GA		
92	Kane, Bobby (K)	6-0/187	Jr.	Coconut Creek, FL		
38	Phillips, Jonathan (K)	5-11/207	Sr.	Wellington, FL		
37	Rowley, Butch (LS)	6-1/196	Sr.	Orlando, FL		
43	Smith, James (LS)	6-1/234	Sr.	Gainesville, FL		
85	Taussig, Greg (K)	6-2/194	Sr.	Winter Park, FL		
58	Williamson, Mike (LS)	6-0/197	Jr.	Winter Park, FL		

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4 (5-3 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Western Kentucky	W	49-3	90,086
S. 8	Troy	W	59-31	90,244
S. 15	Tennessee	W	59-20	90,707
S. 22	at Ole Miss	W	30-24	55,032
S. 29	Auburn	L	20-17	90,685
O. 6	at LSU	L	28-24	92,910
O. 20	at Kentucky	W	45-37	71,024
O. 27	at Georgia	L	42-30	84,481
N. 3	Vanderbilt	W	49-22	90,222
N. 10	at South Carolina	W	51-31	81,215
N. 17	Florida Atlantic	W	59-20	90,107
N. 24	Florida State	W	45-12	90,664
J. 1	#Michigan	L	41-35	69,748
#Capital One Bowl				

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tim Tebow	350	234	3,286	32	6
Cameron Newton	10	5	40	0	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tim Tebow	210	895	4.3	23	
Percy Harvin	83	764	9.2	6	
Kestahn Moore	104	580	5.6	6	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Percy Harvin	59	858	14.5	4	
Andre Caldwell	56	761	13.6	7	
Louis Murphy	37	548	14.8	5	
Cornelius Ingram	34	508	14.9	7	

Kicking: Joey Iijas, 10-15 FGs, 72-73 XPs, 102 points

Tackles: Brandon Spikes, 131; Dustin Doe, 85

Sacks: Derrick Harvey, 8.5

Interceptions: Two players tied with 2

Returning Players in Bold

and Dee Finley will definitely improve the athleticism of this group. Joe Haden had never played cornerback before last year and did well to hold his own. Wondy Pierre-Louis struggled to be consistent and has to get better to hold off Markihe Anderson and the freshmen. Major Wright was up and down as a true freshman free safety and doesn't have the speed of his predecessor Reggie Nelson. But who does? If Florida's secondary makes marked improvements over last season, the Gators can be as good as anyone in the country.

SPECIALISTS Florida brought in true freshman Caleb Sturgis, who made a 60-yard field goal in the spring game, to be the placekicker. "It sounds like a bomb went off when his foot hits the ball," Meyer says. Sturgis sometimes struggles with accuracy, but his leg makes Florida a threat to score from anywhere inside the 45. Chas Henry had a strong freshman season punting and will handle the chores again. His forte is high kicks that are rarely returned. But the story on special teams is James, who is the conference's best at running back kicks and punts. Now a junior, James will make the difference in a game or two.

BRANDON SPIKES



SCOUTING THE GATORS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP FLORIDA "Florida was the most talented team we played last year. ... Percy (Harvin) was the best player in the league. He ran the ball. He got the ball. He is a wide receiver and a tailback. ... The offense wasn't much different with (Tim) Tebow than with (Chris) Leak — it's just that Tebow ran the ball more and a lot better. They had those capabilities before. To me, it's the other threats that allow Tebow to run it effectively. He can throw it out to any of those wide receivers. They are all good. Or they can hand it to Harvin. All those weapons combined make Tebow so good. ... They didn't need a conventional running back, because the guys they handed the ball to were all good. I don't care what you called them, running backs or whatever. They could all run it. ... They will be good on defense. They have so many players. It will be hard for them not to be good on defense."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Spread the wealth Much has been made about the spread offense, but Urban Meyer insists that the playbook is simply designed around available personnel. "If a player is really good," Meyer says, "he's going to touch the ball." In his first season at Florida, Meyer had trouble finding enough of those players. Last year, he had plenty, but Florida was a little predictable in getting the ball in the hands of Tim Tebow and Percy Harvin and sometimes ignoring other talented players. With this year's cache of weapons, the challenge for Meyer and coordinator Dan Mullen is going to be distribution.

New blood Meyer had the same staff for his first three seasons as Florida's coach, but his fourth year brings changes to one-third of his coaching staff. The most significant of the departures was defensive line coach and co-defensive coordinator Greg Mattison to the NFL, but Meyer filled that void with former Iowa State head coach Dan McCarney, who spent a year at South Florida. New defensive backs coach Vance Bedford from Michigan will handle the cornerbacks, who showed a vast improvement in the spring, and Kenny Carter will handle the running backs, an area where Florida has had little production the last three seasons.

Brothers in arms When Florida signed seven players from Lakeland High in 2007, nobody could have dreamed of the effect two of them would have on the program right away. Maurkice Pouncey wasted little time moving into the starting lineup at offensive guard as a true freshman. Mike Pouncey waited longer, shifting from the offensive line to defensive tackle late in the season and giving the Gators a spark. This year, the twins will line up next to each other — Maurkice at center and Mike at guard in the UF starting lineup. "I can't imagine not having them," Meyer says. "They love the game and come out here with smiles on their faces."

New front door For years, the entrance to the coaches' offices at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium was an unmarked pair of glass doors. When a recruit's father told Meyer the walk up the back stairs was dingy and dirty, he knew something had to change. Florida now has a magnificent new front door, the Gateway of Champions, at the southwest corner of the stadium. It includes displays of the three Heismans, the two national championship trophies and other awards won by Gators. The \$18 million addition serves two purposes — honoring Gator greats and helping with recruiting.

Spikes: Brad Schloss

2008 SIGNEES

His first class didn't pan out, but since then Urban Meyer has stacked three of the nation's best classes on top of each other. The emphasis in the 2008 class was on defense, and Meyer brought in quite a haul, led by defensive tackle Omar Hunter from Buford, Ga., and free safety Will Hill of West Orange, N.J.

Meyer again took advantage of early enrollees to get eight of them in for spring practice, including cornerback Janoris Jenkins of Pahokee, Fla. Florida signed the nation's top junior college receiver in Carl Moore of Roseville, Calif., and got one of the state's fastest player in running back Jeff Demps from Groveland.

In all, 13 of the 22 signees are on the defensive side of the ball, and Meyer was beaming on Signing Day about finally having the numbers at almost every position to liven competition in practice and give the Gators depth. He was especially happy to have reached into the state of Alabama for two prospects, safety Dee Finley of Auburn and defensive end William Green of Hoover. On a team that still lacks upperclassmen, Meyer expects some of the freshmen to step in right away. Hunter is the guy Meyer has said will play right away in the rotation at defensive tackle. Hill, Finley and Jenkins will have a chance to compete for playing time in the secondary, and Brendan Beal of Bangor, Pa., will add to the depth at linebacker.

Caleb Sturgis of St. Augustine, Fla., will likely be UF's placekicker in the fall. Because Florida returns so many starters, this class won't have to have the impact that the Tim Tebow-Percy Harvin class of 2006 had for Florida to be successful, but it will have to help the Gators improve in several key areas for this to be a championship season.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Backs.....	5
Defensive Linemen	5
Wide Receiver	4
Linebacker	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Athletes	1
Kickers	1

BY STATE

Florida	10
Alabama	2
Georgia.....	2
Texas.....	2
California	1
Illinois.....	1
Kentucky.....	1
New Jersey	1
Pennsylvania	1
South Carolina	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

OMAR HUNTER • DT • BUFORD, GA

One of the weaknesses for Florida in 2007 was the lack of a big run stopper in the middle who could also give the Gators a big push up front. That's why Urban Meyer considered Hunter to be the key to his 2008 recruiting season, even though he had committed to Notre Dame. Meyer was ecstatic when Hunter committed to the Gators and was a nervous wreck waiting for him to make it official at a ceremony at his high school. "They had 10 guys who signed, and I was on the phone with his dad waiting for him to sign his letter," Meyer says. "I must have been on the phone for 30 minutes waiting for the good news." He went as far as to tell ESPN during its broadcast of the spring game that the Gators "are on Omar Hunter watch" waiting for the tackle to get to school. Meyer believes Hunter not only will play right away but could also be a starter before long if he lives up to the hype. What Hunter will give Florida is a big body at tackle who possesses athleticism and quickness in the mold of former Gator tackles Marcus Thomas and Gerard Warren.



BRENDAN BEAL	LB	6'3"	223	BANGOR, PA
Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> , <i>Parade</i> All-American and Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year. Had 10 sacks and eight forced fumbles as senior.				
JEREMY BROWN	CB	5'10"	163	ORLANDO, FL
Named first-team Class 6A All-State. Recorded eight INTs as a senior.				
ADRIAN BUSHELL	DB	5'10"	183	DESOTO, TX
Ranked No. 15 athlete in country and No. 21 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com.				
JEFFREY DEMPS	ATH	5'8"	176	OKAHUMPKA, FL
Ranked No. 6 all-purpose back in nation by Rivals.com. Rushed for 1,401 yards and 16 TDs in '07; 1,761 yards and 21 TDs in '06. Ran 10.25-second 100-meter dash — the second-fastest time in state history — at AAU Junior Olympics.				
TROY EPPS	DT	6'0"	285	UNION, SC
Coffeyville (KS) CC transfer. Named first-team All-Jayhawk Conference.				
DEE FINLEY	S	6'2"	200	AUBURN, AL
Named second-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> . Participated in Under Armour HS All-American Game. Ranked No. 1 safety in nation by ESPN.com.				
WILLIAM GREEN	DE	6'4"	215	HOOVER, AL
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked No. 7 outside linebacker in country by Rivals.com. Registered 114 tackles and four sacks as senior.				
FRANKIE HAMMOND	WR	6'0"	170	HOLLYWOOD, FL
Recorded 46 catches for 880 yards, for 19.1 yards per catch, and 10 TDs in '07.				
WILL HILL	S	6'2"	203	WEST ORANGE, NJ
Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> and <i>Parade</i> All-American. Participated in Under Armour HS All-American Game, with one INT returned 62 yards. Ranked No. 1 athlete in nation by Rivals.com and No. 1 safety in country by Scout.com.				
OMARIUS HINES	WR	6'1"	205	CORSICANA, TX
Ranked No. 21 wide receiver in nation by Rivals.com. 23 TD catches as junior.				
OMAR HUNTER	DT	6'0"	322	BUFORD, GA
Played in Under Armour HS All-American Game. Ranked No. 2 defensive tackle in nation by Rivals.com and Scout.com. Had 93 tackles and seven sacks in '07.				
JANORIS JENKINS	CB	5'10"	177	PAHOKEE, FL
Participated in Under Armour HS All-American Game. Ranked No. 4 cornerback in nation by ESPN.com. Won back-to-back Class 2B state titles.				
BYRAN JONES	DL	6'3"	305	JACKSONVILLE, FL
Named first-team Class 3A All-State as a senior.				
T.J. LAWRENCE	WR	6'0"	185	LAKELAND, FL
Participated in Under Armour All-American game. Named first-team Class 3A All-State by FSWA. Had 50 catches for 1,245 yards and 15 TDs as a junior.				
LERENTEE MCCRAY	LB	6'2"	205	OCALA, FL
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Game. Ranked No. 10 outside linebacker in nation by Rivals.com. Recorded 118 tackles and nine sacks as a senior.				
CARL MOORE	WR	6'3"	220	ROSEVILLE, CA
Sierra (Calif.) CC transfer. Ranked No. 2 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com.				
EARL OKINE	DE	6'5"	250	GAINESVILLE, FL
Named third-team Class 5A All-State. Had 102 tackles and 12 sacks as senior.				
MATT PATCHAN	OL	6'6"	260	TAMPA, FL
Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> . Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked No. 4 tackle in country by Scout.com and No. 11 overall prospect in nation by Rivals.com. Had eight sacks, four forced fumbles on defense in '07.				
T.J. PRIDEMORE	LB	6'0"	236	GAINESVILLE, GA
Named first-team Class AA All-State by the <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> in '06.				
SAM ROBEY	OL	6'4"	275	LOUISVILLE, KY
Co-winner of Paul Hornung Award, sponsored by Louisville Quarterback Club, given to state's top HS players. Ranked No. 8 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com.				
CALEB STURGIS	K	5'10"	182	ST. AUGUSTINE, FL
Participated in Under Armour All-American Game. Named first-team Class 3A All-State. Ranked No. 3 kicker in country by Scout.com.				
DAVID YOUNG	OL	6'6"	290	EDWARDSVILLE, IL
No sacks allowed and no holding penalties since sophomore season.				

HEAD COACH: MARK RICHT **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 72-19 (7 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 72-19 (7 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: MIKE BOBO **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** WILLIE MARTINEZ
 ATHENS, GA. SANFORD STADIUM (92,746)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BULLDOGS

Georgia has talent, specifically on offense with quarterback **Matthew Stafford** and tailback **Knowshon Moreno**. Georgia has depth, particularly on what could be a punishing defensive line. Georgia has momentum, having won its last seven games of 2007. And Georgia has plenty of expectations of the highest kind. "One of the main reasons we're going to be ranked high, supposedly, is because of what last year's team did," coach **Mark Richt** says. "That team is gone. Those leaders are gone. That chemistry is gone. You have to start over. You've got to earn the right to be considered a great football team." The Bulldogs will try to earn that by playing one the toughest slates in the country. They will be traveling to play South Carolina, Arizona State, LSU, Florida and Auburn. In order to survive, the Bulldogs need Stafford to take the next step in his development, and they need another banner season from Moreno. The defense will be led by a no-name but impressive line and a pair of unsung linebackers. After spring practice, Richt felt good about how his team was progressing, but there still is work to be done, he emphasizes. The chances of an undefeated season are slim, but with this schedule, the Bulldogs might be able to lose a game (or even two) and still play for the national title.



MATTHEW STAFFORD

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Georgia Southern	W
S. 6	Central Michigan	W
S. 13	at South Carolina	W
S. 20	at Arizona State	*
S. 27	Alabama	W
O. 11	Tennessee	*
O. 18	Vanderbilt	W
O. 25	at LSU	*
N. 1	#Florida	*
N. 8	at Kentucky	W
N. 15	at Auburn	*
N. 29	Georgia Tech	W
	#Jacksonville, FL	

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

NATIONAL
FORECAST

5

BULLDOGS

SEC EAST
PREDICTION

2

GEORGIA
Bulldogs

In 1988, Mark Richt was a young assistant coach at Florida State and the Seminoles were the nation's No. 1 team in the preseason. In the year's first game, Florida State lost to Miami 31-0. "Of course, I remind them of that," says Richt, now a not-as-young head coach at Georgia, where he runs a program still aspiring toward the kind of national stature the Seminoles eventually achieved.

The Bulldogs, fresh off a No. 2 finish in last year's final AP poll, may not be preseason No. 1 in every poll, or any poll, in 2008, but they will be near the top of all of them. That means Richt and his coaches have had to spend plenty of time dampening expectations throughout the offseason.

"To me if you're thinking you are a preseason No. 1, you need to be stacked at every position," Richt says. "I just don't see us there yet. We've got offensive line issues. We don't even know who our kicker is. There are some things going on that have to be settled before the season."

All that is true, but there are reasons for optimism, too. Georgia is returning eight starters on offense and seven on defense from the team that closed the year with seven straight victories. Among that group are running back Knowshon Moreno, quarterback Matthew Stafford and defensive tackle Geno Atkins.

"I think everybody is expecting good things," Richt acknowledges.

The season's first opponent is Georgia Southern, so another 31-0 loss is unlikely, but the schedule gets gruesome shortly thereafter with back-to-back trips to South Carolina and Arizona State followed by home games against Alabama and Tennessee. The second half includes games at LSU and Auburn along with the annual showdown with Florida in Jacksonville.

"I think our guys are mature enough to know that our league is rough and our schedule is pretty unbelievable," Richt says. "We've got a lot ahead of us."

.791

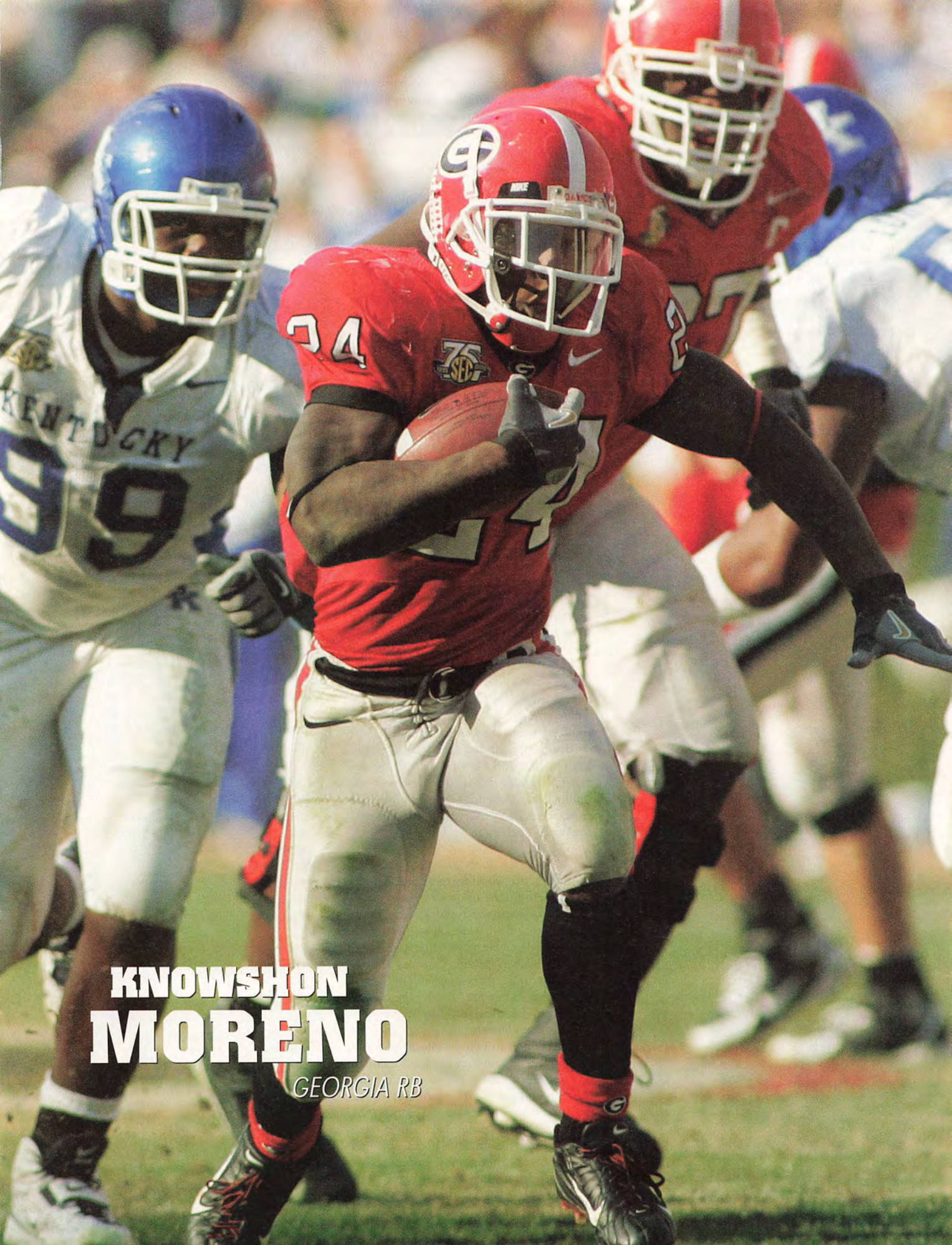
Mark Richt's .791 winning percentage is the fourth-best among active coaches, trailing Pete Carroll (.844), Bob Stoops (.815) and Urban Meyer (.814).

QUARTERBACKS Stafford has modest career passing numbers (54.5 percent completion percentage, 4,272 yards, 26 touchdowns and 23 interceptions in two years), but not modest ability. Georgia's coaches are constantly wowed by his talent; they focused this offseason on Stafford's fundamentals. The benchmark for quarterbacks under Richt is a 62 percent completion percentage, a number that Stafford has yet to approach. If he does that this year, a possibility considering that he has a dominant running back and the deepest wide receiving corps of his career, his numbers won't be modest anymore. The Bulldogs could win games with backup Joe Cox but would rather not have to. Redshirt freshman third-stringer Logan Gray is a good enough athlete that he might take a few trick-play snaps.



RUNNING BACKS Combine the noted fickleness of Georgia's fan base and its obsession with running backs, and it's little wonder Moreno got less attention in Athens during spring practice than his new backup, Caleb King. Moreno — who last year rushed for 1,334 yards, the second-best total by a freshman in school history — still is the best-known Bulldog around the nation, though, and with good reason. He finished last year second in the SEC in rushing and has proven enough to his coaches that he was held out of more than half the live action in spring practice. The new flavor of the month at Georgia is King, who is like Moreno in many ways. Both were standout high school runners who had to redshirt while waiting their turn at Georgia. King isn't as physical a runner as Moreno but has more top-end speed, and he will get plenty of snaps in his reserve role. Either a true freshman or a walk-on will be Georgia's third-string tailback, which could have an impact on the 2008 season given how much the Bulldogs like to rotate runners.

RECEIVERS If Georgia can't find a consistent and dynamic receiver — something that has troubled the Dawgs throughout Richt's tenure — from this year's group, it never will. The Bulldogs have good-looking receiver after good-looking receiver on either side of the field this year. "We've done a nice job at that position," offensive coordinator Mike Bobo says. "There's a lot more experience there. Guys know what to expect, know how to run certain routes, know how to attack coverages, so we should be productive at that position." There's experience (seniors Kenneth Harris and Mohamed Massaquoi) size (6'5" Kris Durham, 6'4" Walter Hill, 6'4" A.J. Green) and speed (track moonlighter Demiko Goodman).



**KNOWSHON
MORENO**
GEORGIA RB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	88 Kenneth Harris (Sr.)	16 Kris Durham (Jr.)
WR	1 Mohamed Massaquoi (Sr.)	82 Michael Moore (Jr.)
LT	77 Trinton Sturdivant (So.)	78 Josh Davis (So.)
LG	72 Vince Vance (Jr.)	54 Tanner Strickland (Fr.)
C	63 Chris Davis (So.)	61 Ben Jones (Fr.)
RG	60 Clint Boling (So.)	79 Justin Anderson (Fr.)
RT	75 Kiante Tripp (So.)	61 John Potts (Fr.)
TE	86 Tripp Chandler (Sr.)	89 Bruce Figgins (So.)
QB	7 Matthew Stafford (Jr.)	14 Joe Cox (Jr.)
FB	36 Brannan Southerland (Sr.)	49 Shaun Chapas (So.)
RB	24 Knowshon Moreno (So.)	4 Caleb King (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	41 Roderick Battle (Jr.)	99 Jarius Wynn (Sr.)
DT	95 Jeff Owens (Sr.)	90 Corvey Irvin (Sr.)
DT	56 Geno Atkins (Jr.)	91 Kade Weston (Jr.)
DE	55 Jeremy Lomax (Sr.)	42 Justin Houston (Fr.)
SLB	51 Akeem Dent (So.)	52 Darius Dewberry (Jr.)
MLB	33 Dannell Ellerbe (Sr.)	50 Darryl Gamble (So.)
WLB	35 Rennie Curran (So.)	37 Akeem Hebron (So.)
CB	2 Asher Allen (Jr.)	11 Ramarcus Brown (Sr.)
CB	23 Prince Miller (Jr.)	3 Bryan Evans (Jr.)
SS	5 CJ Byrd (Sr.)	31 Quintin Banks (So.)
FS	9 Reshad Jones (So.)	32 John Knox (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Blair Walsh (Fr.)	KR	2 Asher Allen (Jr.)
P	32 Brian Mimbs (Sr.)	PR	2 Asher Allen (Jr.)

DANNELL ELLERBE



Georgia's receivers caught the ball better during live action than in non-contact drills during spring practice, a sign Richt found encouraging, but there have been other good signs from this group that never came to fruition in the fall.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN An optimist will point out that Georgia returns three starters on the offensive line. A coach, however, takes a different approach. Bobo is quick to point out that Georgia really only has one player returning to the position he played last year, sophomore left tackle Trinton Sturdivant. The two other returning starters have swapped spots, with Clint Boling moving from left guard to right guard and Chris Davis moving from guard to center. The starting right tackle will be sophomore Kiante Tripp, who started his career as a defensive lineman. Among the reserves, watch out for Justin "Bean" Anderson. He always seems to be in the coaches' doghouse, but he could be a road-grading guard. There is no real experience on the line. The only upperclassman, junior Vince Vance, is a junior college transfer who has only been in the program for one season. "Is there a leader in the bunch? Yeah, but will he be able to do it this year? I don't know," Richt says. "I think we're thinking in terms of each man having to pull his own weight right now and that has to be good enough."

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Bulldogs' defensive line could be the SEC's best without having an All-SEC player in the group. Their strength is depth. It wouldn't be shocking to see the Dawgs regularly rotate six defensive ends and five defensive tackles. The best of the bunch is Geno Atkins, a junior tackle who at times last year was unblockable. At end, Georgia is high on redshirt freshman reserve Justin Houston, a converted linebacker.

LINEBACKERS Georgia spent most of spring practice working on its nickel package, which doesn't use a strong-side linebacker, so when the Bulldogs talk about their starting linebackers, they mean middle linebacker Dannell Ellerbe and weak-side linebacker Rennie Curran. "I love watching those guys play side-by-side," Richt says. "They may not be the biggest tandem in America, but they are very active. They understand the game. They are strong enough to take on blocks and run through them, and they are quick enough if they see a crease to be able to run through and get it." The probable starter on the strong side is Akeem Dent, but he trained at inside linebacker during the spring. Darryl Gamble, who can play all three spots, made the most improvement in the offseason, Richt says.

KEY BULLDOGS

Knowshon Moreno, RB Sophomore running back will receive mention in preseason Heisman Trophy discussions. **Matthew Stafford, QB** Junior has been overshadowed by Moreno but is still the player who makes it all go for the Bulldogs.

Brannan Southerland, FB Senior fullback may be the most underrated player in SEC and is a worthy member of a great backfield.

Dannell Ellerbe, LB Senior has turned corner in his attitude, coaches say, and shows a knack for making heady plays.

Asher Allen, CB Junior looks small (5'10", 198 pounds) but is as physical a defender as Georgia has.



KEY LOSSES

Brandon Coutu, K Coutu's powerful and accurate leg may be the most troublesome loss of the year.

Fernando Velasco, C The offensive line must find a new leader to replace the underrated Velasco.

Sean Bailey, WR There are plenty of candidates to fill Bailey's spot, but none are as proven.

Marcus Howard, DE Sugar Bowl MVP took four years to blossom but ended up continuing UGA's trend of play-making ends.

Chester Adams, T Steady tackle will be missed for consistency and experience on a line searching for those things.

RISEING STAR

Redshirt freshman running back **Caleb King** hasn't played a football game in almost two years, but that has done little to dampen the expectations for his debut this year. In the spring game, King showed a dizzying ability to avoid tacklers, and teammates have vouched for his ability to get the tough yards up the middle. King won't start but should be a dynamic complement to Knowshon Moreno.



Ellerbe, Allen: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



2008 GEORGIA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	61 Fields, Justin	6-1/244	So.	Savannah, GA	
14 Cox, Joe	6-1/208	Jr.		Charlotte, NC	79 Anderson, Justin	6-5/328	Fr.		Ocala, GA	50 Gamble, Darryl	6-2/237	So.	Bainbridge, GA	
17 deLaureal, Jonathan	6-2/213	So.		New Orleans, LA	60 Boling, Clint	6-5/290	So.		Alpharetta, GA	37 Hebron, Akeem	6-1/225	So.	Gaithersburg, MD	
6 Gray, Logan	6-2/180	Fr.		Columbia, MO	63 Davis, Chris	6-4/292	So.		Jefferson, GA	Hollander, Devin	6-1/237	Jr.	Gainesville, GA	
7 Stafford, Matthew	6-3/237	Jr.		Dallas, TX	78 Davis, Josh	6-6/293	So.		Jayess, MS	54 Respress, Justin	5-10/220	So.	Roberta, GA	
RUNNING BACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	76 Harden, Ben	6-3/310	Fr.		Perry, GA	65 Sullivan, Will	6-1/210	So.	Calhoun, GA	
49 Chapas, Shaun	6-2/236	So.		St. Augustine, FL	61 Jones, Ben	6-3/300	Fr.		Centreville, AL	44 Washington, Marcus	6-0/250	Sr.	Keysville, GA	
33 Daniels, Kalvin	5-10/182	So.		Eastman, GA	73 Little, Chris	6-6/330	Fr.		Jeffersonville, GA	43 White, Charles	6-1/217	Fr.	Columbia, SC	
27 Jackson, Dontavious	5-10/190	Fr.		Franklin, GA	74 Perez, Kevin	6-3/270	So.		Miami, FL	DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
4 King, Caleb	5-11/212	Fr.		Norcross, GA	61 Potts, John	6-3/285	Fr.		Baton Rouge, LA	2 Allen, Asher	5-10/198	Jr.		Tucker, GA
24 Moreno, Knowshon	5-11/207	So.		Belford, NJ	54 Strickland, Tanner	6-5/328	Fr.		Nashville, GA	18 Arsenault, Brad	6-0/200	So.		Dacula, GA
48 Munzenmaier, Fred	6-2/233	So.		Norcross, GA	77 Sturdivant, Trinton	6-5/293	So.		Wadesboro, NC	10 Baldwin, Donavon	6-2/204	Jr.		Ft. Lauderdale, FL
37 Newmans, Cortney	5-9/220	Fr.		Macon, GA	75 Tripp, Kiante	6-6/270	So.		Atlanta, GA	31 Banks, Quintin	6-2/210	So.		Warner Robins, GA
29 Rearden, Ryan	6-1/210	So.		Winston-Salem, NC	72 Vance, Vince	6-8/320	Jr.		Hinesville, GA	24 Bost, Robby	5-9/190	Jr.		Milledgeville, GA
44 Sailors, Josh	5-11/220	Fr.		Athens, GA	66 White, Micky	6-3/331	So.		Loganville, GA	11 Brown, Ramarcus	5-11/170	Sr.		East Point, GA
22 Samuel, Richard	6-2/215	Fr.		Cartersville, GA	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	5 Byrd, CJ	6-2/193	Sr.		North Augusta, SC
36 Southerland, Brannan	6-0/240	Sr.		Dacula, GA	56 Atkins, Geno	6-1/290	Jr.		Pembroke Pines, FL	25 Cuff, Vance	5-11/170	So.		Moultrie, GA
35 Stiles, Nick	6-1/240	Fr.		Athens, GA	92 Ball, Neland	6-6/232	Fr.		Jackson, GA	8 Elliot, Eric	5-9/175	Fr.		Kennesaw, GA
47 Williamson, Tyler	5-11/208	Fr.		Lakeland, FL	41 Battle, Roderick	6-4/261	Jr.		Atlanta, GA	3 Evans, Bryan	5-11/188	Jr.		Jacksonville, FL
RECEIVERS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	98 Crawford, Ricardo	6-1/297	So.		Fair Bluff, NC	15 Francis, Rowdy	5-10/190	Sr.		San Antonio, TX
9 Brown, Marquise	5-11/175	So.		Lanham, MD	58 Dobbs, Demarcus	6-2/266	So.		Savannah, GA	16 Gloer, Chad	6-0/191	So.		Fayetteville, GA
16 Durham, Kris	6-5/200	Jr.		Calhoun, GA	69 Gully, Andrew	6-4/250	Jr.		Vienna, VA	4 Johnson, Andrew	6-0/195	So.		Athens, GA
85 Goodman, Demiko	6-2/190	Sr.		Newnan, GA	42 Houston, Justin	6-3/240	Fr.		Statesboro, GA	9 Jones, Reshad	6-2/203	So.		Atlanta, GA
88 Harris, Kenneth	6-3/215	Sr.		Cherryville, NC	90 Irvin, Corvey	6-4/286	Sr.		Augusta, GA	32 Knox, John	6-2/194	Fr.		Statesboro, GA
80 Hill, Walter	6-4/214	Fr.		Gainesville, GA	68 Jacobs, Wes	6-2/245	Jr.		Cordele, GA	23 Miller, Prince	5-8/190	Jr.		Duncan, SC
12 King, Tavarres	6-1/172	Fr.		Mount Airy, GA	59 Lemon, Michael	6-4/274	So.		Lizella, GA	26 Norton, Christian	5-7/160	So.		Athens, GA
1 Massaquoi, Mohamed	6-2/198	Sr.		Charlotte, NC	55 Lomax, Jeremy	6-4/247	Sr.		Jonesboro, GA	13 Nwilo, Jonathan	6-1/190	Fr.		Conyers, GA
82 Moore, Michael	6-2/188	Jr.		Ft. Lauderdale, FL	95 Owens, Jeff	6-3/298	Sr.		Sunrise, FL	27 VanGorder, Molloy	5-8/160	Fr.		Statesboro, GA
84 Renner, Zach	5-11/180	Fr.		Monroe, CT	91 Weston, Kade	6-5/316	Jr.		Red Bank, NJ	47 Williams, Andrew	6-0/197	Sr.		Blairsville, GA
8 Spellman, Vernon	6-1/184	Jr.		Marietta, GA	97 Wood, Brandon	6-1/280	So.		Buchanan, GA	SPECIALISTS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
28 Troupe, Israel	6-1/215	Fr.		Tifton, GA	99 Wynn, Jarius	6-5/273	Sr.		Lincolnton, GA	13 Butler, Drew (P/K)	6-2/205	Fr.		Duluth, GA
26 Wilson, Tony	5-11/198	So.		Daytona Beach, FL	TIGHT ENDS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	57 Davis, Andrew (LS)	6-1/200	Fr.		Alpharetta, GA
86 Chandler, Tripp	6-6/263	Sr.		Woodstock, GA	LINEBACKERS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	58 DeGenova, Matthew (LS)	6-1/210	Fr.		Kenner, LA
89 Figgins, Bruce	6-4/254	So.		Columbus, GA	57 Boyd, Benjamin	6-1/210	Sr.		Thomasville, GA	59 Fowler, Bo (LS)	6-2/215	Sr.		Union Point, GA
90 Nickels, Casey	6-4/240	So.		Tignall, GA	35 Curran, Rennie	5-11/220	So.		Snellville, GA	Frix, Ty (LS)	6-0/200	Fr.		Calhoun, GA
81 Ward, NaDerris	6-5/255	So.		Oakland, CA	51 Dent, Akeem	6-2/218	So.		Atlanta, GA	65 Henson, Jeff (LS)	6-3/258	Sr.		Gainesville, GA
87 White, Aron	6-4/228	Fr.		Columbia, MO	52 Dewberry, Darius	6-3/236	Jr.		Ft. Valley, GA	32 Mimbs, Brian (P/K)	5-11/205	Sr.		Dublin, GA
					33 Ellerbe, Dannel	6-1/232	Sr.		Hamlet, NC					

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 11-2 (6-2 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT.
S. 1	Oklahoma State	W	35-14	92,746
S. 8	South Carolina	L	16-12	92,746
S. 15	Western Carolina	W	45-16	92,746
S. 22	at Alabama	W	(ot) 26-23	92,138
S. 29	Ole Miss	W	45-17	92,746
O. 6	at Tennessee	L	35-14	107,052
O. 13	at Vanderbilt	W	20-17	39,773
O. 27	Florida	W	42-30	84,481
N. 3	Troy	W	44-34	92,746
N. 10	Auburn	W	45-20	92,746
N. 17	Kentucky	W	24-13	92,746
N. 24	at Georgia Tech	W	31-17	54,990
J. 1	#Hawaii	W	41-10	74,383
	#Sugar Bowl			

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

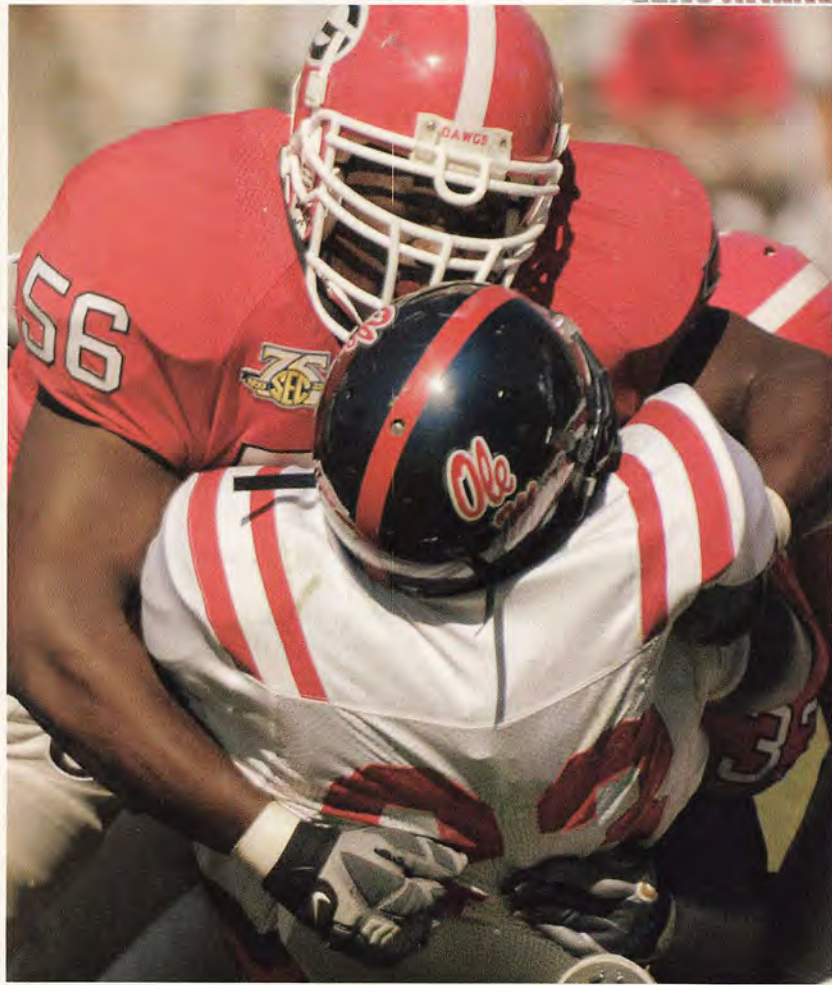
PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matthew Stafford	348	194	2,523	19	10
Joe Cox	15	5	56	1	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Knowshon Moreno	248	1,334	5.4	14	
Thomas Brown	148	779	5.3	10	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Sean Bailey	39	615	15.8	5	
Mohamed Massaquoi	32	491	15.3	4	
Tripp Chandler	21	283	13.5	2	
Knowshon Moreno	20	253	12.6	0	
Kicking: Brandon Coutu, 18-23 FGs, 49-49 XPs, 103 points					
Tackles: Dannel Ellerbe, 93; Asher Allen, 64					
Sacks: Marcus Howard, 10.5					
Interceptions: Kelin Johnson, 4					

Returning Players in Bold

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Bulldogs have a 5'10" starting corner and another who stands 5'8", which could present some problems against some of the league's taller receivers. Asher Allen and Prince Miller have held their own so far, though. Meanwhile, the 203-pound Reshad Jones and his backup, Quintin Banks (210 pounds), are expected to continue the tradition of hard-hitting safeties in the mold of Thomas Davis and Greg Blue. "I'm seeing a lot more direct hits by our safeties, Reshad and Banks, especially," Richt says. Three of Georgia's four starters in the backfield — Jones, Allen and Miller — came to Athens in the same signing class, and that has helped the group develop a bond. "A lot of us are friends in the secondary," Jones says, "so we talk among each other, and that plays a big part of the brotherhood of the secondary."

SPECIALISTS Georgia will spend fall practice trying to find a placekicker to replace Brandon Coutu. Incoming freshman Blair Walsh is the odds-on favorite, but the Bulldogs are bringing in several walk-ons to compete. Georgia has a solid punter in Brian Mimbs.

GENO ATKINS



SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP THE GEORGIA "Knowshon Moreno will be the best back in the league this year. He tries really hard. If you hit him, he is going to try and gain 20 more yards or 30 yards. Great competitor. ... I didn't see a lot of improvement from (Matthew) Stafford last year. ... They had to work around the offensive line. A good back will make an average line a whole lot better. They just get in the way sometimes. I still think they had problems protecting Stafford. If you can get them in long yardage situations, then you can take Moreno out of the game. ... They do what they do well, and that's run the football and play-action pass. That's what you see from Mark Richt. ... Georgia plays that four-man front and attacks you from all angles. Willie Martinez does a really good job keeping them very well-coached. It's a team that plays with a lot of confidence. ... They are getting a ton of hype, but this team still has some issues. They'll be very good, though."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

A coaching change Staff turnover has been rare under head coach Mark Richt, but there will be a new face on the sideline this year. Former tight ends coach David Johnson left to become the offensive line coach for his alma mater, West Virginia. Richt hired an old friend, former Florida State tight ends coach John Lilly, to replace Johnson. Five of Georgia's assistant coaches have been with Richt since he arrived in Athens.

The Fabris factor Defensive ends coach Jon Fabris hasn't gotten a lot of attention for his job in Athens, but his results are unquestioned. In five of the last six seasons, Georgia has had a defensive end with at least 9.5 sacks. Last year, Marcus Howard led the SEC with 10.5. The Bulldogs led the SEC in sacks last year with 42. Fabris also is the team's special teams guru, but Georgia splits special teams responsibilities and has no true special teams coordinator.

Mum's the word No matter how they perform, the Bulldogs' offensive linemen aren't likely to receive any positive publicity this year, because offensive line coach Stacy Searels allows only sophomore center Chris Davis to speak to the media and refuses to talk to the media himself. Searels is the only assistant coach of the Richt era at Georgia who has refused to speak to the media, and his players are the only players under Richt to be regularly kept off-limits.

Block party over After rallying behind their special teams early in the decade, Georgia has returned to a fairly pedestrian routine in that phase of the game. In 2002 and '03, the Bulldogs blocked 16 kicks combined and turned that into 57 points. In the four years since, they have blocked seven and scored 35 points.

Banged-up Bulldogs Thirteen players missed the spring game due to mostly minor injuries. Senior linebacker Marcus Washington (shoulder) is the only player expected to miss the fall. Washington will take a redshirt season and plans to return in 2009.

Good company The only FBS team on a longer winning streak than Georgia is BYU with 10 straight. The Bulldogs have won seven in a row.

Finishing strong If Georgia wins 10 games this year, its seniors will become the sixth straight senior class to finish their careers with 40 wins.

Al Messersmith/Getty Images

2008 SIGNEES

Georgia drained a lot of the drama out of its 2008 signing class by having almost every player in the fold for more than a month prior to Signing Day, but the Bulldogs' coaching staff was excited about the group regardless. So were plenty of other people. The group of 24 newcomers was ranked No. 6 in the nation by Athlon Sports. "Georgia is a pretty hot team right now," Richt acknowledged on Signing Day.

Coaches, being coaches, wanted to talk mostly about the balance of the class and how the team addressed all its needs. Fans, being fans, wanted to talk about the marquee signees, of whom there were a handful, most notably wide receiver A.J. Green, defensive linemen A.J. Harmon and DeAngelo Tyson, and placekicker Blair Walsh.

All four players were either *Parade* All-Americans or *USA TODAY* first-team All-USA players, but there probably is the most excitement about Green, the No. 2 wide receiver in the country, according to the Athlon Consensus 100. The conservative Richt even admitted in the spring that Green will have a chance to play as a true freshman.

"It really seems like we are starting to attract that type of guy," Richt says.

Green made his verbal commitment to Georgia in October 2006, which helped give the class plenty of early momentum. Assistant coach Jon Fabris "made a comment about A.J. He said he's probably the lowest-maintenance, high-profile kid that he's come across. He came to practice one day in the spring, and he liked the way he was treated and he liked what he saw and he told his coach this is where he wanted to be. He never wavered."

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Backs.....	5
Defensive Linemen.....	5
Linebackers	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Running Backs	3
Wide Receivers	2
ATH	1
Kicker	1
Tight End	1

BY STATE

Georgia.....	15
Florida	3
Alabama	2
North Carolina	1
Maryland	1
South Carolina	1
Virginia	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

BEN JONES • OL • CENTREVILLE, AL

Offensive lineman Ben Jones didn't get the recruiting attention that many of his fellow signees received, but he may end up being the most important newcomer in 2008.

As spring practice ended, Jones, a native of Centreville, Ala., was in the running to be Georgia's starting center in 2008. Jones enrolled early and competed in spring practice with the Bulldogs, displaying a toughness and, in Mark Richt's words, "a mean streak," that impressed his coaches.

"He may not look that pretty, but he is a tough, tough kid and all the other kids already seem to gravitate toward him," recruiting coordinator Rodney Garner says. "He's just got natural leadership abilities. He ain't going to quit. He's not going to be intimidated. I think he's going to make the offensive line tougher."

Jones' father, who died when he was 10, earned a forestry degree from the University of Georgia and owned a logging company, a pine tree replanting business and a cattle farm.

"We were always working on the farm, loading hay in the summer or something like that," Jones says. "There was always something to do out there on the farm."

XAVIER AVERY	ATH	6'0"	185	ELLENWOOD, GA
Ranked No. 21 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com. Rushed for 1,115 yards in '06.				
BRANDON BOYKIN	CB	5'10"	171	FAYETTEVILLE, GA
Ranked No. 15 cornerback in nation and No. 18 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com.				
SANDERS COMMINGS	DB	6'2"	195	AUGUSTA, GA
Ranked No. 34 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com. Recorded seven INTs as a junior.				
MARCUS DOWNTIN	LB	6'2"	215	FORK UNION, VA
Rushed for 1,202 yards, on 9.9 yards per carry, and 15 touchdowns as a senior.				
CORDY GLENN	OL	6'5"	313	RIVERDALE, GA
Ranked No. 10 prospect in Georgia and No. 15 tackle in country by Scout.com.				
A.J. GREEN	WR	6'4"	190	SUMMERVILLE, SC
Ranked No. 2 wide receiver in nation and No. 2 prospect in South Carolina by Scout.com. Recorded 72 catches for 1,437 yards (20.0 ypc) and 15 TDs in '07. Named four-time consensus Division I AAAA first-team All-State by the AP.				
A.J. HARMON	DL	6'5"	328	LOUISVILLE, GA
Named second-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> . Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked No. 6 prospect in Georgia by Scout.				
AKEEM HEBRON	LB	6'1"	225	GAITHERSBURG, MD
Transfer from Georgia Military College. Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> and second-team All-America by EA Sports as a senior in '05.				
DONTAVIUS JACKSON	RB	5'10"	190	FRANKLIN, GA
Ranked No. 13 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com				
TOBY JACKSON	DE	6'5"	260	GRIFFIN, GA
Named Class AAAA Defensive Player of the Year by GSWA. Ranked No. 9 end in the nation and No. 7 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com.				
BEN JONES	OL	6'2"	306	CENTREVILLE, AL
Ranked No. 5 center in nation and No. 16 prospect in Alabama by Scout.com. Named first-team Class 5A All-State by ASWA.				
TAVARES KING	WR	6'1"	160	MOUNT AIRY, GA
Named Class AAAA Offensive Player of the Year by the GSWA and <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> . Had state-record 1,632 receiving yards and 17 TDs in '07.				
JEREMY LONGO	DE	6'3"	255	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Ranked No. 30 end in nation and No. 30 prospect in Florida by Scout.com.				
JONATHAN OWENS	OL	6'4"	294	BLOUNTSVILLE, AL
Named first-team Class AAA All-State by ASWA as a senior.				
MAKIRI PUGH	DB	6'0"	188	CHARLOTTE, NC
Ranked No. 22 cornerback in the country by ESPN.com.				
BACARRI RAMBO	DB	6'0"	195	DONALSONVILLE, GA
Rushed for 1,186 yards and 21 TDs on offense.				
CHRISTIAN ROBINSON	LB	6'2"	205	NORCROSS, GA
Named first-team Class AA All-State by GSWA and <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> .				
BRYCE ROS	TE	6'4"	242	KENNESAW, GA
Father, Frank, was a captain on Georgia's 1980 national championship team.				
RICHARD SAMUEL	RB	6'2"	215	CARTERSVILLE, GA
Ranked No. 1 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com and No. 5 running back in nation by ESPN.com. Rushed for 1,429 yards and 24 TDs in '07.				
CARLTON THOMAS	RB	5'7"	165	FROSTPROOF, FL
Rushed for 2,386 yards and 25 TDs as a senior. Ranked No. 8 running back in nation by ESPN.com and No. 15 prospect in Florida by Scout.com.				
DEANGELO TYSON	DT	6'2"	300	STATESBORO, GA
Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA Today</i> . Ranked No. 3 defensive tackle in nation and No. 2 prospect in Georgia by Scout.com.				
BLAIR WALSH	K	5'10"	175	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Named first-team All-USA by <i>USA TODAY</i> . Ranked No. 1 kicker in nation by Scout. Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Hit two 59-yard field goals in '07.				
CORNELIUS WASHINGTON	DE	6'4"	217	HEPHZIBAH, GA
Ranked No. 10 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com.				
NICK WILLIAMS	DB	6'2"	205	BAINBRIDGE, GA
Ranked No. 25 outside linebacker in nation by Rivals.com.				

HEAD COACH: RICH BROOKS RECORD AT SCHOOL: 25-35 (5 YEARS) CAREER RECORD: 116-144-4 (23 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JOKER PHILLIPS DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: STEVE BROWN

LEXINGTON, KY. COMMONWEALTH STADIUM (67,606)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

58

WILDCATS



SEC EAST
PREDICTION

5

KENTUCKY
Wildcats

If Kentucky is supposed to come crashing back to the SEC pack this season, nobody has told Rich Brooks. Yes, the Wildcats' coach is aware of what he's missing after back-to-back eight-win seasons — quarterback Andre' Woodson, wide receiver Keenan Burton and linebacker Wesley Woodyard lead a distinguished list of graduates — but player losses don't mean that Brooks will accept fewer wins.

"It's a long, hard road to get to where we've been the last two years," Brooks says. "Where we got to isn't where we want to end, because we want to be better than that. And certainly if we fall short of it, even from what we did last year, than it'll be very disappointing, regardless of how many players you have to replace."

The official count is 10 starters — seven on offense — and 16 lettermen from a team that won its second straight Music City Bowl and became the first at Kentucky since 1976-77 to win eight games in back-to-back seasons. Along the way, the Wildcats upset eventual national champion LSU, climbed into the top 10 in the polls for the first time in 30 years and set a school record for attendance.

Though UK opens this season with holes left by some of the most accomplished players in its football history, Brooks is optimistic about the program he's building in Lexington. Seventeen of the Wildcats' top 22 players return on defense, and Brooks boasts a deep stable of running backs to carry the offensive load.

"I'm sure (opponents) are all looking at the graduation losses that we suffered, and they're saying, 'Well Kentucky's going to go back to where they belong.' And I'm here to say we aren't going back there," Brooks says. "We need to keep climbing the ladder, we need to keep knocking those teams off and making an impact in this league."

57

It's been 57 years since Kentucky made three straight bowl trips. If the Wildcats do that this season, it'll be the first time since the 1949, '50 and '51 seasons in which UK has been bowling three straight years.

QUARTERBACKS

There's no clear-cut successor to Woodson, and it's likely that Kentucky will enter the fall with a tight race between junior Curtis Pulley and sophomore Mike Hartline. If Pulley gets the nod, Woodson's heir will be best on the ground. Pulley is a run-and-throw threat who beat out Woodson in the spring of 2006, only to lose the job before the start of the '06 season. Pulley played nine games and started once at quarterback as a freshman, and as a sophomore in 2006, he played in 13 games as a receiver and part-time quarterback. He redshirted last season after withdrawing from school in the spring semester of 2007 for what Brooks called academic reasons. Pulley's progress in the classroom could be critical to how Brooks views his leadership skills. Though he's played sporadically, Pulley has far more experience than Hartline, who threw six passes last season as Woodson's redshirt freshman backup. And Pulley's speed could give the Kentucky offense a weapon it has lacked in recent years under the direction of drop-back passer Woodson.

RUNNING BACKS

Even with the loss of Rafael Little, one of the SEC's top all-purpose backs, Kentucky is stacked at tailback, and the Wildcats likely will transition to a run-oriented attack this season. The key to that offense could be sophomore Derrick Locke. Recruited to run track, the tailback shifted to a football scholarship just before the season and was a revelation, rushing for 521 yards on 94 carries with five touchdowns. For a change of pace, Kentucky can hand off to sophomore Moncell Allen. The wrecking-ball running back packs 225 pounds onto his 5'7" frame and has 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash. Those two will share carries with senior Tony Dixon and junior Alfonso Smith at tailback. Dixon has started 13 games over his injury plagued career, while Smith has a respectable 4.9 yards-per-carry average in his two years at UK. John Conner should get the bulk of fullback duty. One of his backups, junior Maurice Grinter, was injured in the spring but could get a look at tight end this fall.

RECEIVERS

Among them, receivers Burton and Steve Johnson and tight end Jacob Tammie caught 186 passes for 2,401 yards and 28 touchdowns. Those are big shoes to fill, and the candidates lack experience. The featured receiver likely will be senior Dicky Lyons Jr., who caught 56 passes for 655 yards and seven touchdowns last season. But Lyons thrived the past two seasons in the shadow of Burton and Johnson, and coaches questioned his leadership in the spring. Still, Lyons remains Kentucky's best-bet playmaker. Junior DeMoreo Ford ruptured a patella tendon in the spring, and his status for the fall is uncertain. So the Wild-

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE WILDCATS

Rich Brooks was successful enough at Oregon that they named the field after him. He's been good enough at Kentucky that his offensive coordinator, Joker Phillips, already has been pegged as the head-coach-in-waiting. If Brooks gets the Wildcats into another bowl game this season, they might start planning a statue in Lexington. The non-conference schedule — with a winnable game at Louisville and home games against Norfolk State, Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky — will ease the Cats into SEC play, but in conference, nothing is a given. The Kentucky defense, with eight starters returning, is good enough on paper to keep things close, and offensively, the Wildcats have the potential to feature an explosive rushing attack. But the quarterbacks are untested and wide receiver is a serious question mark. And if the Cats can't throw in Phillips' pass-happy offense, points will be at a premium. Unlike last season, Kentucky probably won't be good enough to knock off the national champion. But if a go-to wide receiver emerges, and one of the two quarterbacks, Curtis Pulley or Mike Hartline, settles into a groove by midseason, the Wildcats are a threat to reach a third straight bowl game.



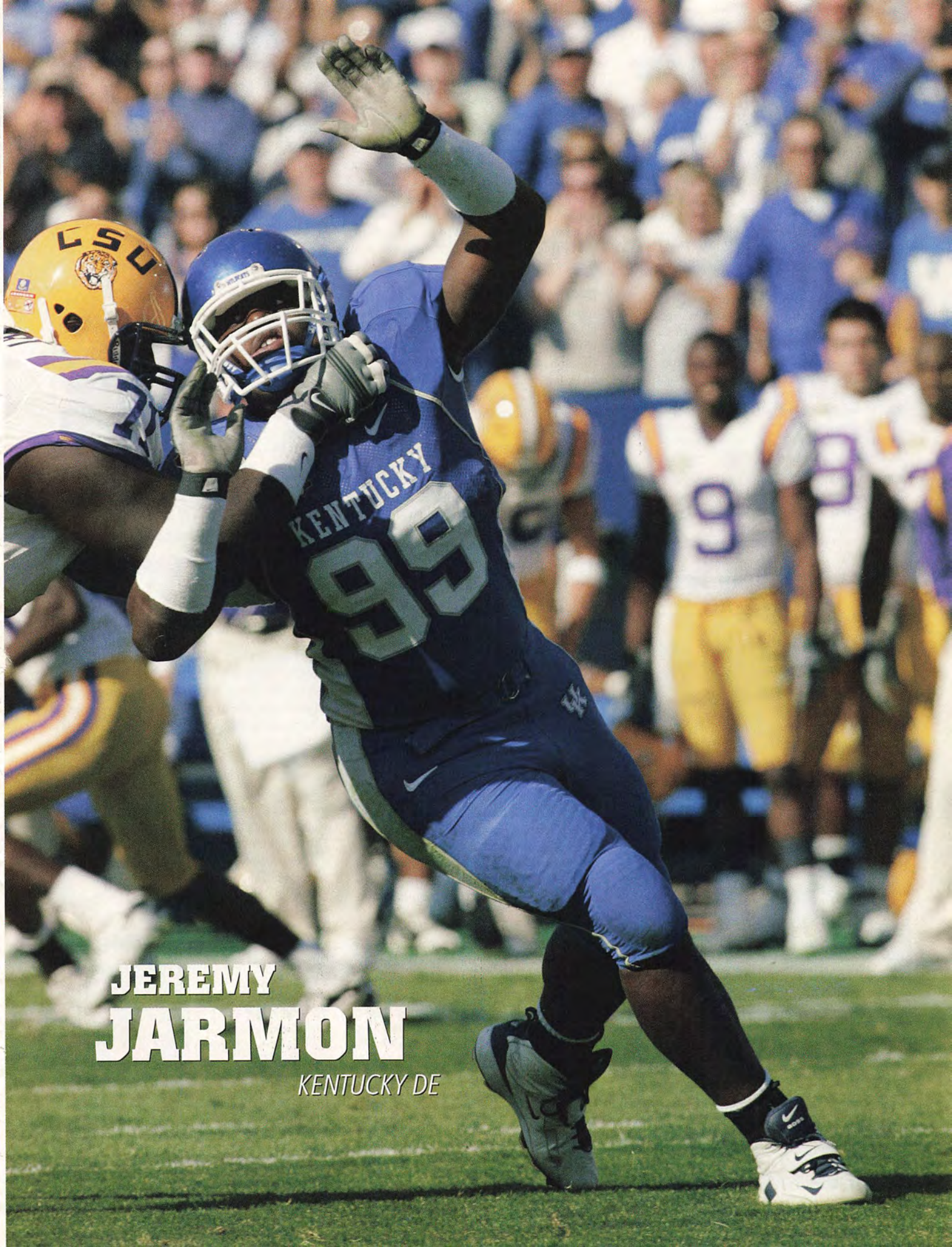
DICKY LYONS JR.

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 31	at Louisville	*
S. 6	Norfolk State	W
S. 13	Middle Tennessee	W
S. 27	Western Kentucky	W
O. 4	at Alabama	L
O. 11	South Carolina	*
O. 18	Arkansas	*
O. 25	at Florida	L
N. 1	at Mississippi State	L
N. 8	Georgia	L
N. 15	Vanderbilt	W
N. 29	at Tennessee	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Jamarc Johnson; Lyons: Brad Schloss



**JEREMY
JARMON**

KENTUCKY DE

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	81 Kyrrus Lanxter (So.)	8 DeMoreo Ford (Jr.)
WR	12 Dicky Lyons (Sr.)	14 Anthony Mosley (Fr.)
LT	79 Garry Williams (Sr.)	71 James Alexander (Jr.)
LG	72 Zipp Duncan (Jr.)	78 Christian Johnson (Sr.)
C	61 Jorge Gonzalez (Jr.)	63 Jake Lanefski (Fr.)
RG	73 Jess Beets (Sr.)	70 Stuart Hines (Fr.)
RT	76 Justin Jeffries (Jr.)	75 Brad Durham (So.)
TE	80 T.C. Drake (Jr.)	86 Ross Bogue (Jr.)
QB	15 Curtis Pulley (Jr.)	5 Mike Hartline (So.)
FB	38 John Conner (Jr.)	43 Stephen Ball (So.)
RB	41 Derrick Locke (So.)	28 Tony Dixon (Sr.)

DEFENSE (8)

DE	99 Jeremy Jarmon (Jr.)	92 Josh Minton (So.)
DT	91 Corey Peters (Jr.)	53 Ricky Lumpkin (So.)
DT	98 Myron Pryor (Sr.)	60 Shane McCord (So.)
DE	95 Ventrell Jenkins (Sr.)	93 Austin Moss (Jr.)
SLB	51 Johnny Williams (Sr.)	50 Sam Maxwell (Jr.)
MLB	4 Micah Johnson (Jr.)	43 Mikhail Mabry (Jr.)
WLB	56 Braxton Kelley (Sr.)	21 Michael Schwindel (Jr.)
CB	32 Trevard Lindley (Jr.)	36 Robbie McAtee (Sr.)
CB	7 David Jones (Sr.)	34 Paul Warford (Jr.)
SS	27 Ashton Cobb (Jr.)	11 Greg Wilson (Fr.)
FS	2 Marcus McClinton (Sr.)	33 Calvin Harrison (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	36 Lones Seiber (Jr.)	KR	12 Dicky Lyons (Sr.)
P	44 Tim Masthay (Sr.)	PR	12 Dicky Lyons (Sr.)

MICAH JOHNSON



cats will rely on two inexperienced returnees (sophomore Kyrrus Lanxter, redshirt freshman Anthony Mosley), a converted cornerback (E.J. Adams) and perhaps incoming freshmen to step in at wideout. Kentucky has high hopes at tight end, especially for junior T.C. Drake. Though Drake has only one catch in two seasons — a 2-yard touchdown in the upset of LSU — he showed good hands in the spring and is more than capable as a blocker.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Brooks called last season's offensive line the best he's had at Kentucky, and he expects this year's unit — with three returning starters — to follow suit. The Cats allowed an SEC-worst 38 sacks last season, but with a more mobile quarterback — and a run-oriented offense — that number should take a dip. The Cats appear set on the left side, with tackle Garry Williams and guard Zipp Duncan, a converted tight end. Sophomore Brad Durham should push returning starter Justin Jeffries at right tackle, and Jorge Gonzalez should replace graduated starter Eric Scott at center. That leaves a battle at right guard, where senior Jess Beets and redshirt freshman Stuart Hines are in the mix.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The depth is lacking here, and the production has been spotty. But Kentucky has SEC talent across the line. If there's a candidate on the defensive side for a breakout season, it might be tackle Corey Peters, whom the coaches named the team's most improved defensive player last season after he totaled 43 tackles and 2.5 sacks. Joining him in the middle is Myron Pryor, who's been plagued by injuries much of his career and hopes his production matches his potential in his senior season. The pass rush is crucial, and Kentucky's best pass-rusher is defensive end Jeremy Jarmon, who led the team with nine sacks last season. Jarmon is a lock to start at one end, with converted tackle Ventrell Jenkins likely to claim the other.

LINEBACKERS Kentucky loses some speed with Woodyard's departure, but this should be the biggest, most physical group of linebackers the Wildcats have featured in the Brooks era. Last season, Braxton Kelley and Micah Johnson split time in the middle, combining for 121 tackles. This season, Kelley will move outside to Woodyard's old weak-side spot, leaving the middle open for Johnson, a heralded recruit when he came out of Fort Campbell (Ky.) High School three years ago. Johnny Williams will man the strong side. The 6'3", 240-pound senior saw spot duty as a rush end in the spring and could see some action there.

KEY WILDCATS

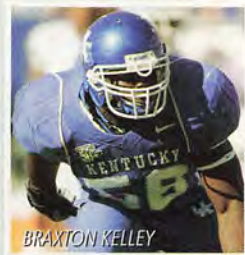
Dicky Lyons Jr., WR Kentucky's only healthy returning receiver needs to prove he can be a leader as well as a pass-catcher.

Jeremy Jarmon, DE Team leader in sacks last season will take aim at Dennis Johnson's single-season school record.

Trevard Lindley, CB One of the SEC's best cover corners, he's key to a defensive backfield that's the deepest UK has had in years.

Braxton Kelley, LB He moves from the middle to the outside, combining with full-time middle linebacker Micah Johnson for a physical 1-2 punch.

Marcus McClinton, S After injury-shortened season, he looks to repeat 2006, when he totaled 65 tackles, four interceptions and five forced fumbles.



KEY LOSSES

Andre' Woodson, QB Cats don't have a pure passer to replace his 3,709 yards and school-record 40 passing touchdowns.

Keenan Burton, WR The defensive attention he drew created countless opportunities for other wide receivers in pass-happy offense.

Rafael Little, RB Kentucky might be just as good running the ball out of the backfield without him, but his 42 receptions will be tough to replace.

Jacob Tamme, TE Better than advertised as a blocker, he was the SEC's best pass-catching tight end and a go-to guy at crunch time.

Wesley Woodyard, LB The face of the program was UK's leading tackler with 139, but also its lockerroom leader and best recruiter.

RISEING STAR

Tailback **Derrick Locke** saw significant game action as a backup last season. As a sophomore, the two-sport standout could emerge as a star. Recruited for track and field at Kentucky, Locke has continued to excel there — he set the school's freshman long-jump record in the spring — but he owes his fame (and now his scholarship) to football.



Kelley, Johnson: John Greshop



2008 KENTUCKY ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				DEFENSIVE BACKS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
1 Fidler, Will	6-4/220	So.	Henderson, KY	71 Alexander, James	6-5/298	Jr.	Atlanta, GA	43 Mabry, Mikhail	6-2/235	Jr.	Mililani, HI
5 Hartline, Mike	6-6/201	So.	Canton, OH	73 Beets, Jess	6-2/285	So.	Dove Canyon, CA	50 Maxwell, Sam	6-3/225	Jr.	Hartwell, GA
15 Pulley, Curtis	6-4/200	Jr.	Hopkinsville, KY	77 Davis, Marcus	6-1/280	So.	Union, KY	89 Murphy, Brian	6-0/211	Fr.	Big Stone Gap, VA
17 Sargent, Tyler	6-3/202	Fr.	Waynesville, OH	72 Duncan, Zipp	6-5/285	Jr.	Magnolia, KY	47 Nance, A.J.	5-11/240	Jr.	Knoxville, TN
RUNNING BACKS				DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				SPECIALISTS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
30 Allen, Moncell	5-7/225	So.	New Orleans, LA	45 Glenn, Antwane	6-4/245	Fr.	Pacolet, SC	Gooch, Tyler (LS)	6-2/230	So.	Goshen, KY
43 Ball, Stephen	5-10/224	So.	Brentwood, TN	88 Goode, Chris	6-4/240	So.	Tucker, GA	55 Hart, Brad (LS)	6-1/218	So.	Marion, KY
37 Bowland, Trey	5-10/190	So.	Knoxville, TN	99 Jarmon, Jeremy	6-3/285	Jr.	Collierville, TN	65 Helton, J.J. (LS)	6-3/230	So.	Franklin, TN
38 Conner, John	5-11/228	Jr.	West Chester, OH	95 Jenkins, Ventrell	6-2/285	Sr.	Columbia, SC	97 Housley, J.J. (K)	5-10/186	Sr.	Hazard, KY
28 Dixon, Tony	5-9/203	Sr.	Parrish, AL	53 Lumpkin, Ricky	6-4/289	So.	Clarksville, TN	Jones, Colin (K)	5-10/175	Fr.	Centerville, OH
40 Grinter, Maurice	6-3/250	Jr.	Louisville, KY	60 McCord, Shane	6-3/271	So.	Hartwell, GA	44 Masthay, Tim (P/K)	6-2/200	Sr.	Murray, KY
9 Jackson, Brandon	5-11/202	Fr.	Eugene, OR	68 McDermott, Luke	6-1/224	Fr.	Louisville, KY	36 Seiber, Lones (K)	5-9/190	Jr.	Knoxville, TN
41 Locke, Derrick	5-10/180	So.	Hugo, OK	62 Meisner, Greg	6-2/240	Fr.	Greensburg, PA	55 Thomas, Jon (LS)	5-10/209	Fr.	Louisville, KY
47 Ramsey, Matt	6-1/205	So.	Artemus, KY	92 Minton, Josh	6-3/250	So.	Somerset, KY	9 Tydlacka, Ryan (K/P)	6-1/195	Fr.	Louisville, KY
29 Smith, Alfonso	6-1/200	Jr.	Louisville, KY	93 Moss, Austin	6-0/250	Jr.	Hopkinsville, KY	Uminger, Ross (K)	6-1/170	Fr.	Walton, KY
Webb, Norman	5-10/203	Fr.	Louisville, KY	84 Mustafaa, Charles	6-3/260	Fr.	College Park, GA	Williams, Timothy (K)	5-9/182	Fr.	Plain City, OH
RECEIVERS				LINEBACKERS							
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN					
17 Adams, E.J.	6-0/190	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA	42 Cessna, Chris	6-4/220	Fr.	London, KY				
88 Brazley, Nik	5-9/164	Fr.	Louisville, KY	57 Dufrene, Jacob	6-2/215	So.	Cut Off, LA				
85 Cecil, Anthony	6-0/191	Jr.	Hodgenville, KY	4 Johnson, Micah	6-2/255	Jr.	Ft. Campbell, KY				
8 Ford, DeMoreo	5-10/186	Jr.	LaGrange, GA	56 Kelley, Braxton	6-0/226	Sr.	LaGrange, GA				
83 Gholson, Jonathan	6-2/185	Fr.	Louisville, KY								
87 Henderson, André	6-6/214	So.	Lexington, KY								
90 Hendricks, Kramer	6-5/194	Fr.	Cincinnati, OH								
31 Jones, Jeremy	6-2/175	Fr.	Kennesaw, GA								
26 Jones, Terrence	6-2/192	So.	Atlanta, GA								
81 Lanxter, Kyrus	6-3/187	So.	Alcoa, TN								
48 Long, Jayce	6-0/180	So.	West Paducah, KY								
12 Lyons Jr., Dicky	5-11/190	Sr.	New Orleans, LA								
14 Mosley, Anthony	6-0/170	Fr.	Ellenwood, GA								
Vereen, Ken	5-8/152	So.	Lexington, KY								
Williams, Clark	5-5/140	So.	Dayton, OH								
84 Wraley, Chris	5-10/180	Jr.	Zionsville, IN								
TIGHT ENDS											
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN									
86 Bogue, Ross	6-5/240	Jr.	Suwanee, GA								
80 Drake, T.C.	6-6/235	Jr.	Bardstown, KY								
82 Sexton, Tyler	6-2/242	Jr.	Somerset, KY								

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5 (3-5 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT.
S. 1	Eastern Kentucky	W	50-10	66,512
S. 8	Kent State	W	56-20	67,380
S. 15	Louisville	W	40-34	70,857
S. 22	at Arkansas	W	42-29	74,015
S. 29	Florida Atlantic	W	45-17	65,927
O. 4	at South Carolina	L	38-23	76,220
O. 13	LSU	W	(ot) 43-37	70,902
O. 20	Florida	L	45-37	71,024
O. 27	Mississippi State	L	31-14	68,173
N. 10	at Vanderbilt	W	27-20	39,773
N. 17	at Georgia	L	24-13	92,746
N. 24	Tennessee	L	(ot) 52-50	69,813
D. 31	#Florida State	W	35-28	68,661
#Music City Bowl				

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andre' Woodson	518	327	3,709	40	11
Mike Hartline	6	4	34	0	1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Rafael Little	190	1,013	5.3	3	
Derrick Locke	94	521	5.5	5	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Keenan Burton	66	741	11.2	9	
Steve Johnson	60	1,041	17.4	13	
Dicky Lyons Jr.	56	655	11.7	7	
Jacob Tamme	56	619	11.1	6	

Kicking: Lones Seiber, 16-25 FGs, 51-54 XPs, 99 points
 Tackles: Wesley Woodyard, 139; Trevard Lindley, 66
 Sacks: Jeremy Jarmon, 9
 Interceptions: Trevard Lindley, 3

Returning Players in Bold

DEFENSIVE BACKS In a defensive backfield that's deeper than it's been in years, Trevard Lindley has emerged as Kentucky's top shut-down corner, intercepting three passes last season and breaking up 11 more. Opposite Lindley, coaches like Paul Warford's ability, but the junior was suspended for part of the spring for a violation of team rules. Back with the team this fall, Warford will be pushed by backup David Jones. The best of the safeties is senior Marcus McClinton, who missed five games last season to injury but still managed 32 tackles, an interception and two pass breakups. Keep an eye on Matt Lentz, a hard-hitting converted quarterback whom coaches liked in spring practice.

SPECIALISTS Ryan Tydlacka arrived last season with a big reputation, but he didn't beat out either Lones Seiber at kicker or Tim Masthay at punter. Seiber and Masthay, both talented but inconsistent, will enter the fall atop the depth chart at their respective positions this season. In Little and Burton, Kentucky lost its two most explosive return men. The Wildcats will look to Lyons, Dixon, Locke, Smith and Jones as return options.

DERRICK LOCKE



SCOUTING THE WILDCATS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP KENTUCKY "Andre' Woodson was a good player. He was very efficient. He just didn't hurt them. Though I was surprised in that bowl game. He just looked bad in that game. I don't know what it was. He didn't do those things during the regular season, except against South Carolina. ... You would expect a drop-off for them next year. They lost so many players. ... Kentucky has some good backs, but they play so many, so they don't get the reps they need. ... They were good enough defensively to win some big games. They played well against LSU. They aren't just an offensive team. They made some key strides last year. ... They had a quarterback capable of getting the ball to some good receivers. Their defensive performance stepped up to match their offensive performance. But the key was they had a quarterback that could play well. I'm sure Randy Sanders will have someone else ready to play. ... They were very sound on defense, and they made you have to make plays. In the past they had tended to give up the big plays. Their defensive front is as good as it has been in a while.

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Next in line Last fall, rumors swirled that coach Rich Brooks was set to announce his retirement, and that Kentucky soon would be searching for a new football coach. Brooks stayed put, but the Wildcats went ahead and found their next coach anyway. Upon extending Brooks' contract through the 2011 season, the university also announced that Joker Phillips, a UK grad and the team's current offensive coordinator, would be Brooks' eventual successor. Not that there's any rush. Brooks needs five more seasons at the helm to accomplish his stated goal of becoming Kentucky's all-time longest-tenured football coach. Phillips says he's willing to wait. "When Rich is ready to go fishing, I'm looking forward to someday running this program," Phillips says. The Kentucky offense has improved its scoring and total offense averages all three seasons with Phillips at the helm as offensive coordinator.

Renaissance man Jeremy Jarmon might be among the SEC's best pass-rushers. He's certainly among its most compelling stories. Consider the year Jarmon had as a sophomore. Last fall, the defensive end totaled nine sacks. In the spring, he earned rave reviews for his performance in an on-campus production of "Weak/Side/Help," a play about the impact of race, media and steroids in college football. Over the summer, Jarmon planned to intern with the FBI, and the political science major hasn't ruled out a career in politics.

Second chance F. Scott Fitzgerald once said that there are no second acts in American lives. Curtis Pulley hopes he was wrong. Pulley enters his junior season in 2008 the way he entered his sophomore season back in 2006 — with his eye on the starting quarterback spot at Kentucky. Last time, Pulley lost the job to Andre' Woodson, and his career slipped from there. He lost focus academically and ultimately withdrew from school in the spring of 2007. Readmitted to the university, Pulley redshirted last season and, with Woodson off to the NFL, now has a second shot at first-string, battling with sophomore Mike Hartline this fall. "I had this chance before, and I let it slip away," Pulley says. "I'm going to do everything I can to get this spot back."

Trailblazers With Phillips as offensive coordinator and Steve Brown as defensive coordinator, Kentucky is the first school in SEC history to have African-Americans in those roles at the same time.

Locke: Brad Schloos

2008 SIGNEES

Rich Brooks figures he's not going to reel in five-star talent year after year at Kentucky, but he's built the program by finding less-heralded prep stars mixed with a dash of splashy names. He notes that the All-SEC-caliber players Kentucky had last season were mostly under-recruited overachievers like Keenan Burton, Wesley Woodyard and Jacob Tamme. So, as is the case most every year, Brooks has a higher opinion of his signing class than the experts, who rank it somewhere in the mid-to low-50s nationally.

Kentucky's 2008 class includes a few of those big-name signees, including Aaron Boyd of Henry Clay High School in Lexington, Ky., and Randall Cobb, a quarterback/athlete from Alcoa, Tenn., who was named that state's Class AA Mr. Football. The Wildcats also scored a recruiting coup in landing another Lexington product, safety Winston Guy of Lexington Catholic, who committed to Arkansas, then backed out and signed with UK even after Bobby Petrino came on to coach the Razorbacks.

Brooks hopes the class also has some diamonds in the rough. He signed five players who spent at least some time in high school at quarterback, and a host of other players he thinks could emerge as surprises. Among the candidates are E.J. Fields of Frankfort (Ky.) High School, a prep quarterback who projects as a wide receiver, and linebacker William Johnson of Pearl-Cohn High in Nashville, who Brooks said "could be one of the biggest sleepers in this class."



AARON BOYD

If there's an immediate impact, it could be at wide receiver, where Boyd, Fields and Miami Southridge product Eric Adeyemi are among the players who should get an early look. Defensively, the one to watch is Cartier Rice, who comes from Byrnes High School in Duncan, S.C., with a reputation as a strong cover corner.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Offensive Linemen	4
Wide Receivers	4
Athletes	3
Defensive Linemen.....	3
Linebackers	3
Defensive Backs.....	2
Tight Ends.....	1

BY STATE

Kentucky	5
South Carolina	4
Tennessee	4
Florida	3
Georgia.....	2
Ohio	1
Texas	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

AARON BOYD • WR • LEXINGTON, KY

Aaron Boyd could have gone almost anywhere to play his college football. He decided to go down the street. After a prolonged recruitment that boiled down to Oregon and Kentucky, Boyd — the state's top prospect and a top 40 wide receiver by most recruiting services — chose his hometown school, the same one where his brother Shane once played quarterback.

"I've got a lot of love here," Boyd says.

Boyd will have even more if he contributes as a freshman. After catching 133 passes for 2,423 yards and 26 touchdowns in his career at Henry Clay High School, he said the Kentucky coaching staff sold him on immediate playing time after the graduation loss of wide receivers Keenan Burton and Steve Johnson.

ERIC ADEYEMI WR 6'0" 165 MIAMI, FL

Only player to catch pass against elite Miami cornerback Brandon Harris, according to story in *Miami Herald*. Named All-Dade County as a senior.

AARON BOYD WR 6'3" 210 LEXINGTON, KY

Ranked No. 1 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com and Scout.com. Named first-team All-State by the Associated Press as a senior. Recorded 55 catches for 1,157 yards and 15 TDs in '07. Brother, Shane, played quarterback at UK from 2001-04 and is now in the NFL.

CHANDLER BURDEN OL 6'5" 280 OXFORD, OH

Named honorable mention All-Southwest Ohio as a senior.

RANDALL COBB ATH 5'11" 180 ALCOA, TN

Named Class AA Mr. Football as a senior. Passed for 1,765 yards, 22 TDs and two INTs; rushed for 793 yards and 13 TDs in '07. Led Alcoa HS to four straight state championships, starting at quarterback in 2006 and 2007.

E.J. FIELDS WR 6'2" 190 FRANKFORT, KY

Ranked No. 4 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com and No. 45 safety in country by Scout.com. Rushed for 1,023 yards and 19 TDs on offense; had eight INTs on defense as a senior. Named first-team All-State by *Louisville Courier-Journal*.

WINSTON GUY DB 6'1" 190 LEXINGTON, KY

Ranked No. 3 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com and No. 12 safety in nation by Scout.com. Named first-team All-State by the AP and *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Won Class AAAA state title in '07. Recorded 75 tackles, 18.5 tackles for a loss, 7.5 sacks, two forced fumbles and two blocked kicks as a senior.

OSAZE IDUMWONYI DL 6'1" 275 CEDAR HILL, TX

Ranked No. 12 center in nation and No. 62 prospect in Texas by Rivals.com. Member of undefeated (16-0) Class AAAAA state championship team in 2007.

WILLIAM JOHNSON LB 6'3" 195 NASHVILLE, TN

Named second-team all-state as a senior. Recorded 80 tackles, 12 sacks and two INTs on defense; caught 12 TDs, rushed for four TDs on offense in '07.

DEAUNTE MASON ATH 6'3" 215 NASHVILLE, TN

Named Class AAA Mr. Football and Nashville Metro MVP as a senior. Passed for 2,375 yards; rushed for 1,052 yards; accounted for 35 total TDs in '07. Teammate of fellow UK signee William Johnson at Pearl-Cohn HS.

GENE MCCASKILL WR 6'0" 175 CHESTER, SC

Named first-team all-state by *Columbia State* newspaper as a senior.

CARTIER RICE DB 5'10" 180 DUNCAN, SC

Named first-team all-state by the AP and *Columbia State* newspaper as a senior. Participated in Shrine Bowl. Won three Class AAAA state championships.

MATT ROARK ATH 6'6" 190 ACWORTH, GA

Named Cobb County Player of the Year in 2006 and 2007. Passed for 1,552 yards and 15 TDs; rushed for 1,010 yards and 12 TDs as a senior. Father, Ray, played football at UK from 1985-88.

DONTE RUMPH DL 6'3" 260 ST. MATTHEWS, SC

Named first-team Class AA All-State by the AP and *Columbia State* newspaper.

MATT SMITH OL 6'4" 270 LOUISVILLE, KY

Ranked No. 63 offensive guard in country by Scout.com.

SEAN STACKHOUSE TE 6'4" 250 JACKSONVILLE, FL

Ranked No. 31 tight end in nation by Scout.com. Had 33 catches for 333 yards in '07.

DANNY TREVATHAN LB 6'1" 210 LEESBURG, FL

Named first-team All-Central Florida and Defensive Player of the Year for Lake and Sumter counties by the *Orlando Sentinel* as a senior.

DAVE ULINSKI OL 6'4" 280 LOUISVILLE, KY

Ranked No. 7 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com and No. 46 tackle in nation by Scout.com. Co-winner of Paul Hornung Award, as best player in Kentucky. Grandfather, Harry, was center and linebacker at UK from 1946-49.

COLLINS UKWU DE 6'4" 210 LA VERGNE, TN

Recorded 86 tackles and seven sacks in seven games before injury in '07.

TREVINO WOODS OL 6'5" 280 ATHENS, GA

Ranked No. 48 offensive guard in country by Scout.com.

TAYLOR WYNDHAM LB 6'4" 205 SWANSEA, SC

Ranked No. 47 strong-side linebacker in nation by Scout.com.



HEAD COACH: STEVE SPURRIER RECORD AT SCHOOL: 21-16 (3 YEARS) CAREER RECORD: 163-56-2 (18 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: STEVE SPURRIER DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: ELLIS JOHNSON

COLUMBIA, S.C. WILLIAMS-BRICE STADIUM (80,250)

After the first five-game losing streak of Steve Spurrier's career cost his team a bowl berth last year, the South Carolina coach decided to shake things up. Spurrier hired a pair of new coordinators, bringing in South Carolina native and SEC veteran Ellis Johnson to run the defense and snagging Ray Rychleski from Maryland to coordinate the special teams. But the biggest change was revealed during spring practice when Spurrier announced he would delegate offensive play-calling duties for the first time in his college career. The Ol' Ball Coach is handing off to a younger Ball Coach — receivers coach Steve Spurrier Jr.

Spurrier Sr., who helped revolutionize passing offenses at Florida in the 1990s, will retain an active voice in the offense. But the 63-year-old Spurrier says he realized in a staff meeting last year when he was drawing up the offensive plan for an upcoming game that it was time to get his assistants more involved.

"I'm still in charge of the offense. I'm still overseeing it. Even if he is the play-caller I'll be right there, (saying) 'Let's go with this one, remember this one.' But you've got to let the play-caller call them. You can't be telling them every time what to do," Spurrier says. "Sometimes you need to delegate a little bit more."

Spurrier, who is 21-16 at South Carolina, still believes the Gamecocks have the talent to be successful. But he is toning down expectations a bit after saying his team would shoot for an SEC championship in 2007. South Carolina was 6-1 and ranked No. 6 in the BCS standings last fall when Vanderbilt stunned the Gamecocks in Columbia. Spurrier's team could not recover from the loss to the Commodores or several key injuries on defense, dropping its final five games to finish 6-6.

It was the first time a Spurrier-coached team that was eligible for the postseason missed a bowl since 1988, his second year at Duke.

Offensively, Spurrier must settle on a quarterback following the departure of the hot-and-cold Blake Mitchell, who started all or parts of three seasons but never seemed to win Spurrier's trust. The Gamecocks also need to develop offensive line chemistry early in camp — a recurring theme during Spurrier's first three years in Columbia. Johnson, who spent the past four seasons at Mississippi State, inherits a defense that returns 10 of 11 starters. His first priority is shoring up a run defense that ranked 110th nationally last year. The return of middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley from a knee injury should help.

As Spurrier moves into more of a CEO role, South Carolina's seniors say the Gamecocks need to focus on closing the deal.

"That was one of the biggest things last year: We didn't know how to finish. It was in our mind, but we just didn't get it done," Brinkley says. "We've got another tough stretch, but this year we're working on attitude."

QUARTERBACKS The Gamecocks' quarterback situation remains muddled due to the suspension of Stephen Garcia. The highly touted redshirt freshman was supposed to factor prominently until encountering more off-the-field troubles. Garcia is suspended until the completion of summer school in mid-August following an underage drinking citation in March, his third arrest or citation since arriving on campus in January 2007. That leaves Chris Smelley and Tommy Beecher battling for the starting job. Smelley, a sophomore who is 4-2 as a starter, is a smart player who knows Spurrier's offense. But there are questions about whether Smelley has the arm strength to deliver the downfield passes in the timing-based system. Beecher, a junior, has steadily progressed despite little game action. More of a scrambler than Smelley, Beecher outplayed the more experienced Smelley for much of the spring and enters preseason practice with a slight edge. "They're pretty close," Spurrier says. "When one separates from the other then we'll know, hey, let's put him in there. We'll all know." Garcia, assuming he returns, and freshman Aramis Hillary could provide Spurrier fallback options.

RUNNING BACKS The Gamecocks have a big hole to fill with the graduation of tailback Cory Boyd, both in terms of productivity (903 rushing yards in '07) and leadership. Mike Davis, a senior from Columbia, steps into the starting role after rushing for 1,658 yards over his first three seasons. Davis, who has three 100-yard rushing games, runs with a low center of gravity and does a nice job of spinning off tackles. But the 5'9", 214-pounder must prove he can pick up the tough yards in 3rd-and-short situations. Sophomore Brian Maddox, the leading

20,068

Steve Spurrier has called 20,068 offensive plays in 23 seasons as a head coach. Spurrier is delegating more play-calling responsibilities this year to his son, Steve Spurrier Jr.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GAMECOCKS

Despite taking a step back from play-calling, **Steve Spurrier** says he wants to stay at South Carolina at least four or five more years. But you wonder how a second straight season without a bowl bid would affect the 63-year-old's thinking. Spurrier expected redshirt freshman **Stephen Garcia** to be his quarterback of the future. But with Garcia's status in doubt, the Gamecocks' offense likely will go as far as **Chris Smelley** takes it. If Smelley limits mistakes and manages games, as he did last season in winning four of his six starts, the defense should keep the Gamecocks close most weeks. First-year coordinator **Ellis Johnson** has four all-conference-caliber players in line-backers **Jasper Brinkley** and **Eric Norwood** and defensive backs **Emanuel Cook** and **Captain Munnerlyn**. The backloaded schedule sets up much like last year's. The Gamecocks close with this five-game gauntlet: home games against LSU, Tennessee and Arkansas, and road trips to Florida and Clemson. The key will be the play of Smelley — or whichever quarterback Spurrier decides to hitch his fortunes to. If none of the quarterbacks step up, it won't matter who's calling the plays. The Gamecocks may not contend for an SEC title, but they should be back in a bowl game after a one-year absence.



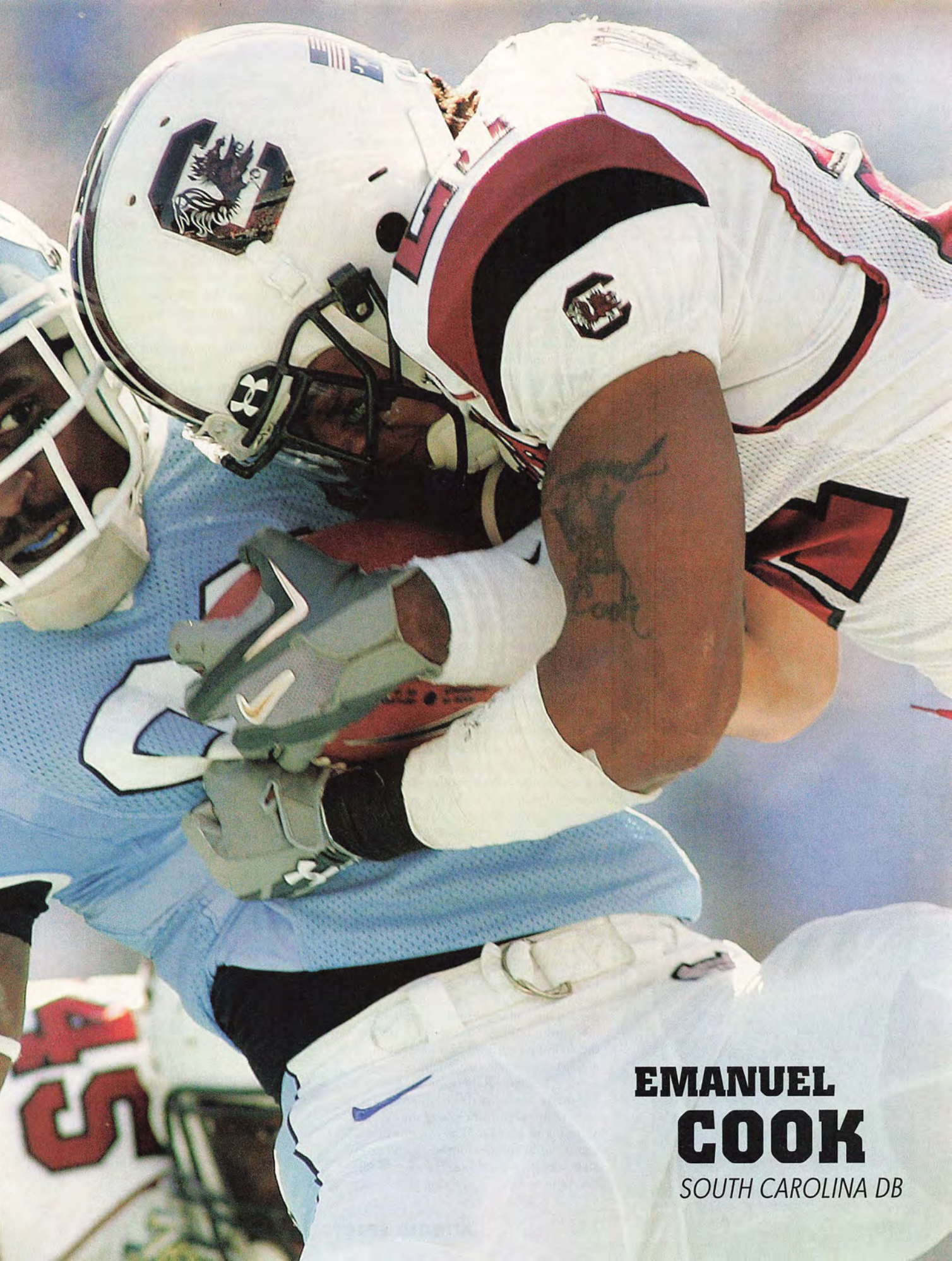
JASPER BRINKLEY

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 28	NC State	W
S. 4	at Vanderbilt	W
S. 13	Georgia	L
S. 20	Wofford	W
S. 27	UAB	W
O. 4	at Ole Miss	W
O. 11	at Kentucky	*
O. 18	LSU	L
N. 1	Tennessee	W
N. 8	Arkansas	W
N. 15	at Florida	L
N. 29	at Clemson	L

* Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Cook: Grant Halverson/Getty Images; Brinkley: Greg McWilliams/Icon Sport



**EMANUEL
COOK**
SOUTH CAROLINA DB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR 11 Kenny McKinley (Sr.)	9 Moe Brown (Jr.)
WR 18 Dion Lecorn (So.)	85 Joe Hills (Fr.)
LT 77 Jamon Meredith (Sr.)	66 Hutch Eckerson (So.)
LG 57 Lemuel Jeanpierre (Jr.)	63 Seaver Brown (So.)
C 70 Garrett Anderson (Jr.)	65 Ryan Broadhead (Fr.)
RG 74 Heath Batchelor (So.)	64 Kevin Young (So.)
RT 78 Justin Sorensen (Sr.)	68 Kyle Nunn (Fr.)
TE 84 Jared Cook (Jr.)	88 Weslye Saunders (So.)
QB 6 Tommy Beecher (Jr.)	7 Chris Smelley (So.)
FB 47 Patrick DiMarco (So.)	46 Bryan Kingrey (Sr.)
RB 25 Mike Davis (Sr.)	10 Brian Maddox (So.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE 41 Jordin Lindsey (Sr.)	42 Travian Robertson (So.)
DT 91 Ladi Ajiboye (So.)	97 Kenrick Ellis (So.)
DT 95 Nathan Pepper (Jr.)	79 Marque Hall (Sr.)
DE 83 Cliff Matthews (So.)	96 Clifton Geathers (Sr.)
OLB 40 Eric Norwood (Jr.)	31 Gerrod Sinclair (Jr.)
MLB 52 Jasper Brinkley (Sr.)	53 Marvin Sapp (Sr.)
OLB 45 Rodney Paulk (Jr.)	4 Alonzo Winfield (Fr.)
CB 1 Captain Munnerlyn (Jr.)	3 Akeem Auguste (Fr.)
CB 5 Carlos Thomas (Sr.)	36 Stoney Woodson (Sr.)
SS 21 Emanuel Cook (Jr.)	13 Mark Barnes (Fr.)
FS 32 Darian Stewart (Jr.)	17 Chris Culliver (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 14 Ryan Succop (Sr.)	KR 17 Chris Culliver (So.)
P 87 Spencer Lanning (So.)	PR 1 Captain Munnerlyn (Jr.)

CAPTAIN MUNNERLYN



high school rusher in South Carolina in 2006, ran for 87 yards and two touchdowns in the spring game after getting only six carries as a freshman. Senior Bobby Wallace missed valuable practice time because of academic issues.

RECEIVERS South Carolina's depth in its receiving corps should be vastly improved. While Kenny McKinley set a school record last year with an SEC-leading 77 receptions, there were not enough other receiving threats for Spurrier's offense to click. But McKinley should get more help this season from Dion Lecorn and Moe Brown, as well as a tight end tandem that could be the SEC's best. Jared Cook (6'5", 242) and Weslye Saunders (6'5", 273) are big targets with good hands who combined for 42 catches and 572 receiving yards last fall. The two present headaches for defensive coordinators accustomed to seeing offenses run the ball from double-tight end sets.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Offensive line coach John Hunt has been slow to identify his best linemen in past seasons, but that should not be a problem this year. The Gamecocks return two full-time starters and two part-timers, although left tackle Jamon Meredith (29 career starts) must sit the first two games in return for the NCAA restoring his redshirt season. Right tackle Justin Sorensen, who has started 18 consecutive games, has developed into one of the leaders up front. He'll be joined by guards Heath Batchelor and Lemuel Jeanpierre and center Garrett Anderson, all of whom have starting experience. Anderson, who missed most of spring drills with a back injury, has eight career starts at guard and should make a smooth transition to center as long as he's healthy. Hutch Eckerson, who started five games in 2006 before redshirting last year, will hold down Meredith's spot the first two games. Spurrier has high hopes for Meredith and the rest of the line. "Jamon Meredith ought to be an all-conference player," Spurrier says. "We've just got to get it out of them."

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN How confident is Johnson in his defensive line depth? The first-year coordinator moved defensive end Eric Norwood to outside linebacker a year after the junior earned all-conference honors and set a school record for tackles for a loss. Jordin Lindsey, the defensive MVP of the 2006 Liberty Bowl, returns after missing last season due to academics. Sophomores Travian Robertson and Cliff Matthews (nine starts at outside linebacker) are speed rushers who should give opposing tackles fits. The interior of the line is not as solid, with the exception of Ladi Ajiboye, a second-team freshman All-American in '07.

KEY GAMECOCKS

Kenny McKinley, WR SEC's leading receiver in '07 should own all of South Carolina's major receiving records by the end of the season.

Jasper Brinkley, MLB When healthy, the senior is the SEC's premier run-stuffer.

Eric Norwood, OLB Move from defensive end should put the Georgia native in greater position to make plays.

Emanuel Cook, SS Led the Gamecocks with 92 tackles last year despite missing all or part of two games.

Jared Cook, TE The 6'5", 242-pound junior creates match-up problems with his size and speed.



KEY LOSSES

Cory Boyd, RB Gamecocks will miss his versatility out of the backfield and leadership in the huddle.

Blake Mitchell, QB Finished in top three on most of South Carolina's passing charts despite getting benched for parts of '06 and '07.

Andy Boyd, TE Displayed toughness in playing six seasons through two knee surgeries and a shoulder operation.

Casper Brinkley, DE Was second on the team with 13 tackles for a loss.

Chris Hampton, FS Memphis native was dependable and could play both safety spots.

RISING STAR

After catching 12 passes for 151 yards as a freshman, tight end **Weslye Saunders** looks poised for a breakout season. Saunders (6'5", 273) is a big target with soft hands who can make tough catches in traffic. If his blocking improves, Saunders will offer the total package.



Norwood, Munnerlyn: Al Koussra



2008 SOUTH CAROLINA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				DEFENSIVE BACKS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
6 Beecher, Tommy	6-2/227	Jr.	Concord, NC	70 Anderson, Garrett	6-4/307	Jr.	Irmo, SC	53 Sapp, Marvin	5-11/228	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
17 Brindise, Zac	6-0/218	Fr.	Fort Myers, FL	62 Andrews, Pierre	6-3/281	So.	Charlotte, NC	48 Shackelford, Vandalal	6-0/239	Jr.	Riverdale, GA
5 Garcia, Stephen	6-2/221	Fr.	Tampa, FL	74 Batchelor, Heath	6-7/308	So.	Haleyville, AL	31 Sinclair, Gerrod	6-0/234	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL
16 McQueeny, Michael	6-2/217	Jr.	Mt. Pleasant, SC	65 Broadhead, Ryan	6-5/270	Fr.	Leesburg, GA	12 Wilson, Shaq	5-11/194	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL
7 Smelley, Chris	6-2/216	So.	Tuscaloosa, AL	63 Brown, Seaver	6-5/307	So.	Clearwater, FL	4 Winfield, Alonzo	6-0/218	Fr.	Winston-Salem, NC
RUNNING BACKS				DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				SPECIALISTS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
28 Baker, Eric	5-11/187	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL	60 Campbell, Terrence	6-3/285	So.	Austell, GA	92 Huegel, Steven (P/K)	5-11/185	Fr.	Export, PA
30 Banag, Yvan	5-10/235	Sr.	Buford, GA	66 Eckerson, Hutch	6-6/291	So.	Lumberton, NC	87 Lanning, Spencer (P/K)	5-11/178	So.	Rock Hill, SC
25 Davis, Mike	5-9/214	Sr.	Columbia, SC	57 Jeanpierre, Lemuel	6-3/293	Jr.	Orlando, FL	97 Spurrier, Nate (P/K)	6-2/243	Jr.	Snellville, GA
47 DiMarco, Patrick	6-1/242	So.	Altamonte Springs, FL	77 Meredith, Jamon	6-5/301	Sr.	Simpsonville, SC	14 Succop, Ryan (P/K)	6-3/224	Sr.	Hickory, NC
35 Hutton, Jim	6-1/241	Jr.	Greeleyville, SC	68 Nunn, Kyle	6-6/300	Fr.	Sumter, SC	59 Turner, Charles (LS)	6-4/219	So.	Roebuck, SC
46 Kingrey, Bryan	6-1/230	Sr.	Raleigh, NC	72 Richardson, Quintin	6-4/289	Fr.	Columbia, SC	50 Vaughn, Chris (LS)	6-1/252	Fr.	Columbia, SC
10 Maddox, Brian	5-10/220	So.	Anderson, SC	54 Sanders, Hardee	6-2/279	Jr.	Barnwell, SC				
20 Rank, Taylor	6-0/214	Jr.	Vancouver, WA	78 Sorensen, Justin	6-7/327	Sr.	Vancouver Island, BC				
22 Wallace, Bobby	5-7/202	Sr.	Conway, SC	75 Thind, Gurminder	6-4/281	Sr.	Mississauga, ON				
RECEIVERS				TIGHT ENDS							
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN					
4 Barnes, Jason	6-4/201	Fr.	Charlotte, NC	84 Cook, Jared	6-5/242	Jr.	Suwanee, GA				
82 Brown, Freddie	6-3/209	Jr.	Duncan, SC	90 Foxworth, Foxy	6-3/244	So.	Mt. Pleasant, SC				
9 Brown, Moe	6-0/186	Jr.	Anderson, SC	44 Gaston, Clark	6-2/244	So.	Cleveland, TN				
15 Clements, Matt	6-0/190	Fr.	Naples, FL	87 McGrath, Alex	6-1/218	Sr.	Greer, SC				
86 Flint, Stephen	6-2/192	Fr.	Mt. Pleasant, SC	19 Prochak, Nick	6-3/230	So.	Spartanburg, SC				
8 Freeman, Larry	6-1/223	Sr.	Fort Meade, FL	88 Saunders, Weslye	6-5/273	So.	Durham, NC				
81 Haile, Paul	6-0/204	So.	Lexington, SC								
85 Hills, Joe	6-4/202	Fr.	Palmetto, FL								
18 Lecorn, Dion	5-11/220	So.	Ocala, FL								
11 McKinley, Kenny	6-0/182	Sr.	Mableton, GA								
83 Spurrier, Scott	5-4/168	Jr.	Leesburg, VA								
27 Whitlock, C.C.	5-10/171	Fr.	Chester, SC								

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 6-6 (3-5 SEC)				
DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Louisiana-Lafayette	W	28-14	78,234
S. 8	at Georgia	W	16-12	92,746
S. 15	South Carolina State	W	38-3	73,095
S. 22	at LSU	L	28-16	92,530
S. 29	Mississippi State	W	38-21	78,883
O. 4	Kentucky	W	38-23	76,220
O. 13	at North Carolina	W	21-15	61,000
O. 20	Vanderbilt	L	17-6	79,212
O. 27	at Tennessee	L	(ot) 27-24	105,962
N. 3	at Arkansas	L	48-36	70,742
N. 10	Florida	L	51-31	81,215
N. 24	Clemson	L	23-21	82,410

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Blake Mitchell	255	152	1,747	10	9
Chris Smelley	162	92	1,176	9	7
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Cory Boyd	180	903	5.0	9	
Mike Davis	114	518	4.5	5	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Kenny McKinley	77	968	12.6	9	
Cory Boyd	36	405	11.2	1	
Jared Cook	30	421	14.0	3	
Dion Lecorn	27	315	11.7	3	

Kicking: Ryan Succop, 13-17 FGs, 37-37 XPs, 76 points
 Tackles: Emanuel Cook, 92; Eric Norwood, 69
 Sacks: Eric Norwood, 6
 Interceptions: Two players tied with 3

Returning Players in Bold

LINEBACKERS The Gamecocks will boast one of the biggest linebacker corps in the country, with Norwood and Jasper Brinkley each weighing around 270 pounds. The athletic Norwood is confident he can cover backs and tight ends at that weight. South Carolina coaches are less concerned with Brinkley's coverage skills, as long as the senior resumes his role as a tackling machine. Brinkley had 107 stops in 2006, more than twice as many as the Gamecocks' second-leading tackler. Rodney Paulk, the other outside backer, started 22 games his first two seasons but made few game-changing plays. Top reserve Marvin Sapp started the final eight games last season after Brinkley was injured, but is coming off hernia surgery.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Strong safety Emanuel Cook headlines a veteran secondary that includes three juniors and a senior. Cook led the team in total tackles (92) and solo stops (77) last year, and is a big part of the Gamecocks' blitz packages. South Carolina's late-season defensive swoon coincided with a foot injury to cornerback Captain Munnerlyn, who had off-season surgery to correct the problem. Senior corner Carlos Thomas has a longstanding spot in Spurrier's doghouse because of his attitude and sporadic play. If Thomas falters, freshman Akeem Auguste could get the call.

SPECIALISTS Spurrier is excited about the addition of Rychleski, who brought organization and energy when he arrived from Maryland as special teams coordinator. Rychleski spent spring practice developing depth on the special team units, a task that included finding someone to take part of the kicking load off do-it-all Ryan Succop. Rychleski hopes Spencer Lanning can handle the punting chores, freeing Succop to concentrate on kicking.

KENNY MCKINLEY



SCOUTING THE GAMECOCKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP SOUTH CAROLINA "Chris Smelley can be a good quarterback, but I don't know if he can be a top-flight quarterback. It's hard to say because he was in and out so much last year. I don't know what they were judging him by, but he did well for them at the first of the season. He didn't get a chance toward the end. ... They have struggled because of the offensive line. They have had a hard time protecting the quarterback. ... Emanuel Cook is really good. Jasper Brinkley is good. They played good defense there. I don't know why they went bottoms-up on defense late. Maybe it was just figuring out that you just had to pound them and run the ball on them. Maybe people were doing the wrong thing until Arkansas got a hold of them. ... There isn't a huge gap in talent between them and the Georgias, Floridas and Tennessees of the league. They are catching up in recruiting, but they haven't gotten them all into school."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Block party After watching the Gamecocks get three punts blocked over their final two games, Steve Spurrier hired former Maryland assistant Ray Rychleski to coach the special teams. During Rychleski's seven years at Maryland, the Terps did not have a punt blocked, the longest current streak in the FBS. Spurrier praised the 50-year-old Rychleski as the most organized special teams coach he has worked with. Rychleski says his goal is efficiency. "We're paid very good money here to do what we're supposed to do," he says. "It's not like the NFL. You don't have all day with these guys. You've only got X amount of time."

Trading places Eric Norwood was an All-SEC pick at defensive end and broke a school record with 19.5 tackles for a loss in 2007. But first-year defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson believes Norwood can be more effective playing in space as an outside linebacker in Johnson's 4-3 scheme. So Johnson flip-flopped Norwood and outside backer Cliff Matthews, who was originally recruited as a pass-rushing end. Norwood, who averaged 6.5 sacks his first two seasons, says the switch will not hurt his productivity. "I'm going to be all-conference," he predicts.

Third strike, is he out? Stephen Garcia was supposed to be a factor in the quarterback competition. But the redshirt freshman was suspended for the second spring in a row following an underage drinking citation, Garcia's third brush with the law in 15 months on campus. Garcia must adhere to several stipulations, including alcohol counseling and drug testing, to be readmitted to school in August. He cannot rejoin the team until Aug. 15. "His attitude now is that he's going to accept a very strong penalty and hopes to return next fall," South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier says.

Getting another leg up Ryan Succop has been the Gamecocks' jack-of-all-trades in the kicking game the past two seasons, handling punts, kickoffs, extra points and field goals. The senior has been no worse for wear, hitting 29-of-39 career field goals and averaging 42.3 yards per punt. But coaches are hoping to give Succop's right leg a break by letting Spencer Lanning do the punting this year. "It's not necessarily wearing down," Succop says. "I can't focus as much on field goals if I have to hit punts also. I like doing all three, but I think it could be better for the team if Spencer punts and I kick field goals."

McKinley: Al Roush/USA

2008 SIGNEES

This Gamecocks' recruiting class lacked the sizzle of last year's group, the highest-rated haul in school history. But South Carolina landed several promising athletes and restocked its secondary by signing five defensive backs. The Gamecocks again were one-upped by Clemson for in-state talent, although Steve Spurrier beat the Tigers for the services of athlete C.C. Whitlock. The 5'10", 171-pound Whitlock enrolled early and went through spring drills as a receiver. Whitlock also can play defensive back and should get a shot to return kicks this year.

Spurrier signed a pair of in-state quarterbacks in Aramis Hillary and Reid McCollum. Hillary, who attended several spring practices, reminds Spurrier of former Gamecock quarterback Syvelle Newton and could see early action if Spurrier develops a running package for a quarterback. South Carolina's highest-rated recruits were four players who signed with the Gamecocks previously but failed to qualify: defensive backs Akeem Auguste and Antonio Allen, tailback Eric Baker and defensive lineman Jarriel King, a member of Spurrier's first recruiting class in 2005. King, who was kicked off his Georgia Military team for taking money from teammates, could make an immediate impact on either side of the ball. King (6'7", 285) hopes to play defense but could be groomed as the successor to left tackle Jamon Meredith.

Notable newcomers on defense include Garner, N.C., linebacker Reggie Bowens and defensive end Chaz Sutton, a Savannah, Ga., native who picked the Gamecocks after Florida backed off because of academic concerns. Ryan Doerr of Katy, Texas, could take over the kicking duties after senior Ryan Succop graduates.

Fourteen members of this 22-player class come from out-of-state.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Backs.....	5
Defensive Linemen.....	5
Linebackers	2
Offensive Linemen	2
Quarterbacks	2
Running Backs	2
Wide Receivers	2
Kickers	1
Tight Ends.....	1

BY STATE

South Carolina	8
Florida	5
Georgia.....	5
Alabama	1
Kentucky.....	1
North Carolina	1
Texas	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

AKEEM AUGUSTE • CB • HOLLYWOOD, FL

Teammates won't hear freshman cornerback Akeem Auguste complain about post-practice sprints or conditioning. The transfer from Fork Union Prep in Virginia is just happy to be free from the daily training regimen of military school.

"It was marching in the morning, marching in the afternoon, marching at night," Auguste says. "March, march, march, march, march."

Auguste, one of three Gamecock freshmen who played at Fork Union last fall, should jump into immediate duty as a backup corner following an impressive spring. Auguste, who signed with South Carolina in 2007 but did not qualify, has a small frame at 5'9" and 179 pounds. But he compensates for his lack of size with good speed and instinctive coverage skills. The native of Hollywood, Fla., had three interceptions as a high school senior, returning two for touchdowns. The Gamecocks likely will use Auguste in their nickel package or to spell returning starters Carlos Thomas or Captain Munnerlyn.

"I doubt I'll start," Auguste says. "But I'll get a lot of PT, come in as a true freshman and try to do a couple things."

ANTONIO ALLEN S 6'2" 190 **OCALA, FL**

Attended Fork Union Military Academy. Ranked No. 23 prep prospect by Rivals.com. Ranked No. 42 safety in nation by Rivals.com as HS senior in '06.

AKEEM AUGUSTE CB 5'9" 179 **HOLLYWOOD, FL**

Attended Fork Union Military Academy. Ranked No. 14 prep prospect by Rivals.com. Ranked No. 14 cornerback in country by Rivals.com as HS senior in '06.

ERIC BAKER RB 5'11" 187 **JACKSONVILLE, FL**

Attended Fork Union Military Academy. Ranked No. 8 prep prospect by Rivals.com. Rushed for 1,703 yards and 16 TDs as a HS senior in '06.

REGGIE BOWENS LB 6'2" 210 **GARNER, NC**

Ranked No. 16 prospect in North Carolina by Rivals.com. Shrine Bowl participant.

JARRETT BURNS S 6'3" 185 **HUNTSVILLE, AL**

Named all-city and all-region. HS teammate of Gamecock Darian Stewart.

RONALD BYRD DE 6'6" 258 **LAGRANGE, GA**

Named All-Area as a senior. Recorded 45 tackles and seven sacks in '07.

KENNY DAVIS DT 6'4" 295 **NEWBERRY, SC**

Ranked No. 14 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com. Shrine Bowl participant. Named first-team all-state by *The State*.

RYAN DOERR K 6'3" 185 **KATY, TX**

Ranked No. 18 kicker in country by Rivals.com. Member of 16-0 Class 5A Division II state champion Katy HS. Had 57 touchdowns in 108 kickoffs in '07.

ARAMIS HILLARY QB 6'2" 205 **NORTH AUGUSTA, SC**

Recipient of Deon Grant Award, given to the Player of the Year in Augusta area. Named All-Atlantic Region by PrepStar magazine. Ranked No. 14 dual-threat quarterback in country and No. 19 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com. Passed for 2,400 yards and 16 TDs; rushed for 980 yards and 18 TDs in '07.

T.J. JOHNSON OL 6'4" 285 **AYNOR, SC**

Ranked No. 13 center in nation and No. 17 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com.

JARRIEL KING DE 6'7" 285 **HANAHAN, SC**

Georgia Military College transfer. Ranked No. 40 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com. Ranked No. 22 prospect in South Carolina by PrepStar magazine in '06.

REID MCCOLLUM QB 6'4" 195 **SUMMERVILLE, SC**

Passed for 3,644 yards and 44 TDs as a senior. Named All-Atlantic Region by PrepStar magazine. Ranked No. 23 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com.

KENNY MILES RB 5'10" 200 **LAWRENCEVILLE, GA**

Rushed for 2,400 yards as a senior. Named All-Southeast Region by PrepStar.

D.L. MOORE WR 6'4" 178 **BOWLING GREEN, KY**

Ranked No. 8 prospect in Kentucky by Rivals.com. Named Class 5A District 2 Player of the Year and All-Southeast Region by PrepStar magazine. Recorded 63 receptions for 1,350 yards, on 21.4 yards per catch, and 13 TDs as a senior.

DARRELL SIMMONS S 6'1" 185 **COLLEGE PARK, GA**

Ranked No. 39 prospect in Georgia and No. 41 safety in nation by Rivals.com.

JAY SPEARMAN S 6'0" 190 **GREENWOOD, SC**

Ranked No. 18 prospect in South Carolina by Rivals.com. Rushed for 1,111 yards and 17 TDs, passed for 1,108 yards and seven TDs as a junior.

CHAZ SUTTON DE 6'4" 236 **SAVANNAH, GA**

Ranked No. 6 weak-side defensive end in nation by Rivals.com.

DEVIN TAYLOR DE 6'6" 225 **BEAUFORT, SC**

Recorded 110 tackles, 19 tackles for a loss and 10 sacks as a senior.

MIKE TRIGLIA TE 6'4" 234 **JACKSONVILLE, FL**

Ranked No. 2 tight end in Florida by FlaVarsity.com.

C.C. WHITLOCK WR 5'10" 171 **CHESTER, SC**

Ranked No. 3 prospect in South Carolina and No. 10 cornerback in country by Rivals.com and Scout.com. Participated in Under Armour All-Star Game, returning an INT for a TD. Cousin of former Gamecock Jonathan Joseph.

ELLIOT WILLIAMS OL 6'6" 275 **WOODSTOCK, GA**

Ranked No. 48 offensive tackle in nation by Scout.com.

SHAQ WILSON LB 6'0" 220 **JACKSONVILLE, FL**

Named Defensive Player of the Year by the *Florida Times-Union* as a senior. Recorded 116 tackles, four forced fumbles, three sacks and three INTs in '07.



HEAD COACH: PHILLIP FULMER RECORD AT SCHOOL: 147-45 (16 YEARS) CAREER RECORD: 147-45 (16 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAVE CLAWSON DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JOHN CHAVIS

KNOXVILLE, TENN. NEYLAND STADIUM (102,038)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

17

VOLUNTEERS

SEC EAST
PREDICTION

3

TENNESSEE
Volunteers

The swagger is back on Rocky Top. The Tennessee Volunteers carry momentum into the season after winning six of their last seven games, including a 21-17 Outback Bowl victory over Wisconsin. "We've got some attitude," says UT coach Phillip Fulmer, who's entering his 17th year at the helm and ranks as the dean of SEC coaches. "We never go into a season not expecting to be the SEC champions; at the same time, we've got our work cut out for us."

The Vols return eight starters on offense, including the entire offensive line, and seven on defense. The offense's experience has made for a smooth transition to new coordinator Dave Clawson. Formerly the head coach at Richmond, Clawson looks to build a balanced attack based on West Coast offense principles. Former Richmond assistant Latrell Scott made the move to Knoxville with Clawson to coach receivers, while former Florida running backs coach Stan Drayton has switched SEC schools, and New York Jets staff member Jason Michael (tight ends) has returned to UT where he started as a graduate assistant.

QUARTERBACKS Junior Jonathan Crompton has waited three long years for his opportunity to fulfill his dream of being Tennessee's starting quarterback. The 6'4", 220-pound Crompton has exhibited tremendous arm strength and accuracy, and shows good mobility and escapability. Crompton has proven a quick study in Clawson's multi-faceted system and is expected to make a quick and healthy recovery from minor arthroscopic elbow surgery performed in the April. A *Parade* All-American in high school, Crompton's game experience is limited but impressive.

As a freshman, he threw two touchdown passes against LSU and threw for two touchdowns and 174 yards against Arkansas. Sophomore Nick Stephens and redshirt freshman B.J. Coleman are battling for backup duties.

4

The Vols return every starter from an offensive line that allowed a nation-low four sacks despite having 534 pass attempts. That works out to one sack every 133.5 attempts.

RUNNING BACKS Arian Foster returns for his senior year with the Vols with visions of surpassing Travis Henry as the school's all-time leading rusher. Foster, a 6'1", 215-pounder, runs with a blend of power and speed, using good vision to find the cutback lanes when the corners aren't open. "Arian brings a level of maturity, physical toughness and confidence to our team," Fulmer says. "He has been in the wars and battles, and he's made the tough runs." Clawson figures to use Foster in a variety of ways. Foster rushed for 1,193 yards last season and needs 685 more to break Henry's career mark. He also caught 39 passes for 340 yards last season. Junior Montario Hardesty will be back from a stress fracture in his leg suffered in spring drills to compete for carries with Lennon Creer, an electrifying sophomore who averaged 5.9 yards on 36 carries last season. Freshman Tauren Poole is a very powerful freshman back with deceptive speed. The Vols are inserting a fullback into the offense, but senior David Holbert suffered a serious knee injury in the spring, leaving the door open for sophomore Kevin Cooper.

RECEIVERS A perceived weakness heading into last season can now be considered a team strength. Sophomore Gerald Jones arrived with a big impact at the end of last season to complement the sure-handed Lucas Taylor. Jones turned in one of the biggest TD receptions of the season against Kentucky, making a spectacular grab in the Vols' 52-50 four-overtime thriller, and has displayed great open-field running ability operating as a hybrid shotgun quarterback. Taylor is a disciplined route-runner with sneaky speed that enabled him to lead the Vols with 1,000 yards on 73 receptions. Junior Austin Rogers (56 catches, 624 yards) proved fearless on crossing patterns, while Josh Briscoe (56-557) showed his ability with 15 catches for 180 yards and two touchdowns in UT's final two games against LSU and Wisconsin. Junior tight end Jeff Cottam is a big target (6'8", 260) whom the Vols are counting on to return from a broken leg suffered this spring.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN The strongest and most experienced unit on the offensive side of the ball lines up in the front, with the Vols returning all their starters from a group that allowed a nation-low four sacks. Veteran line coach Greg Adkins says UT has adjusted to Clawson's system, which uses a "quick" and "strong"

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE VOLS

A staunch defense, solid special teams and exciting young playmakers on offense give Tennessee a chance to return to the SEC title game — even in a division with pre-season top 5 teams Florida and Georgia. The Vols have an opportunity to prove their merit right away, opening at UCLA on Sept. 1 before playing host to UAB (Sept. 13) and Florida (Sept. 20) and then traveling to Auburn (Sept. 27). Dave Clawson's offensive scheme is predicated on playing to his team's strengths, using motions, shifts and a variety of formations to create favorable matchups. Phillip Fulmer insists on balance, so UT will continue to work to establish the run, having returned a fullback to its base formation after former Vols' coordinator and current Duke head coach David Cutcliffe had removed the position. While the offense might not be ready to win games with a first-year starter at the helm in QB Jonathan Crompton, Fulmer will ensure it doesn't lose any games, either, so ball security will be at a premium. The Vols' defense has the ability not only to stop opponents, but also to create turnovers and instant points. Demetrius Morley and Eric Berry form one of the best safety duos in the nation. The Vols' cover skills are such that coordinator John Chavis has worked on a number of pressure packages to find new ways to get to opponents' quarterbacks.



ERIC BERRY

2008 SCHEDULE

S. 1	at UCLA	*
S. 13	UAB	W
S. 20	Florida	*
S. 27	at Auburn	L
O. 4	Northern Illinois	W
O. 11	at Georgia	*
O. 18	Mississippi State	W
O. 25	Alabama	W
N. 1	at South Carolina	W
N. 8	Wyoming	W
N. 22	at Vanderbilt	W
N. 29	Kentucky	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Berry: Bruce Schwartzman; Foster: Sam Jordan



**ARIAN
FOSTER**

TENNESSEE RB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	21 Austin Rogers (Jr.)	4 Gerald Jones (So.)
WR	12 Lucas Taylor (Sr.)	81 Josh Briscoe (Sr.)
LT	79 Chris Scott (Jr.)	72 Ramone Johnson (So.)
LG	75 Anthony Parker (Sr.)	51 Vladimir Richard (Jr.)
C	50 Josh McNeil (Jr.)	66 Cody Sullins (Jr.)
RG	65 Jacques McClellon (Jr.)	74 Jarrod Shaw (So.)
RT	78 Ramon Foster (Sr.)	70 Darius Myers (So.)
TE	80 Jeff Cottam (Jr.)	88 Luke Stocker (So.)
QB	8 Jonathan Crompton (Jr.)	18 B.J. Coleman (Fr.)
FB	45 Kevin Cooper (So.)	Austin Johnson (Fr.)
TB	27 Arian Foster (Sr.)	2 Montario Hardesty (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

LE	94 Wes Brown (Jr.)	84 Chris Walker (So.)
LT	98 Demonte' Bolden (Sr.)	95 Walter Fisher (Sr.)
RT	55 Dan Williams (Jr.)	97 Chase Nelson (Jr.)
RE	91 Robert Ayers (Sr.)	99 Ben Martin (So.)
WLB	5 Rico McCoy (Jr.)	43 Savion Frazier (So.)
MLB	35 Ellix Wilson (Sr.)	56 Nick Reveiz (So.)
SLB	20 Nevin McKenzie (Sr.)	48 Adam Myers-White (Sr.)
CB	13 Brent Vinson (So.)	24 DeAngelo Willingham (Sr.)
CB	31 Marsalous Johnson (Jr.)	37 Antonio Gaines (Sr.)
SS	14 Eric Berry (So.)	36 Anthony Anderson (Fr.)
FS	7 Demetrice Morley (Jr.)	41 Dennis Rogan (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	26 Daniel Lincoln (So.)	KR	41 Dennis Rogan (So.)
P	95 Chad Cunningham (So.)	PR	41 Dennis Rogan (So.)

AUSTIN ROGERS



side concept that involves the tackles and guards switching sides of the ball depending on the formation. "It simplifies things from the aspect of the number of looks they will see," Adkins says. Senior Ramon Foster and junior Chris Scott line up as proven tackles who rank among the strongest members of the team. Senior guard Anthony Parker used his athleticism to earn first-team All-SEC honors last season, while fellow guard Jacques McClellon might have the quickest feet up front. Junior center Josh McNeil has shown the toughness and intelligence necessary in the middle.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Vols' front four has grown from green into salty, led by All-SEC tackle candidate Demonte' Bolden. The 6'6", 290-pound Bolden should make a name for himself as a disruptive player who can force offenses to adjust. Junior Dan Williams possesses great quickness for a 310-pounder and has proven adept at holding his gap and stuffing the run. Converted linebacker Walter Fisher (6'3", 275) brings athleticism into the middle. Ends Robert Ayers and Wes Brown are quick-strike players coming sharply off the edges. Ayers has overcome myriad injuries to become one of UT's top playmaking linemen. Brown has a great motor and is seldom caught out of position. Sophomore Ben Martin is a promising talent who brings more speed from outside.

LINEBACKERS Small in stature, but big on hitting, UT's linebacking corps is solid at the very least. Junior weak-side backer Rico McCoy (6'1", 215), a fierce hitter, returns from a 106-tackle season having improved in pass coverage. Senior Ellix Wilson (5'10", 225) can play all three of the linebacker spots, but his instinctual abilities lend themselves best to the middle. There's competition at the strong-side spot, with converted safeties Adam Myers-White (6'2", 215) and Nevin McKenzie battling for the starting job. Myers-White has great knowledge and understanding of the position, but McKenzie is the more athletic of the two.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The strongest unit on the team is anchored by talented safeties Eric Berry and Demetrice Morley. "I'm not sure we've had a pair of safeties like this since I've been here," says defensive coordinator John Chavis, a former Vol player himself who has served as a UT assistant since 1989. "We've got a chance to be special." Defensive backs coach Larry Slade explains why Berry and Morley promise to be such a lethal combination. "These guys are hungry," Slade says. "I can't get enough film for them to watch." Berry emerged as

KEY VOLS

Eric Berry, S Covers like a cornerback, hits like a linebacker. Could be one of the best ever at Tennessee.

Arian Foster, RB Underappreciated back is on pace to become UT's all-time leading rusher.

Demonte Bolden, DT Has the power and quickness to disrupt but has yet to play up to his potential.

Ramon Foster, T A 325-pound road-grader who moves the pile for one of the nation's top offensive lines.

Lucas Taylor, WR Leading returning receiver had 73 catches for 1,000 yards in a breakout junior season.



KEY LOSSES

Jerod Mayo, LB Led the Vols with an astounding 140 tackles before bolting for the NFL.

Erik Ainge, QB Four-year starter finished 11th on SEC career TD pass list.

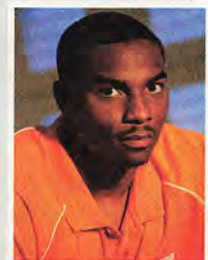
Chris Brown, TE Versatile H-back was go-to receiver in clutch.

Jonathan Hefney, FS Four-year starter quarterbacked the defense.

Xavier Mitchell, DE Unsung defender had a team-high seven quarterback hurries off the edge.

RIISING STAR

Gerald Jones, a former Oklahoma Gatorade high school player of the year, emerged as a playmaker the second half of last season when UT began lining him up in its "G-Gun" formation. Jones, a sophomore, took five snaps and ran 57 yards out of the shotgun look in addition to catching 11 passes for 111 yards.



Taylor: Sam Jordan; Rogers: Bruce Schwartzman



2008 TENNESSEE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				DEFENSIVE BACKS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
18 Coleman, B.J.	6-3/210	Fr.	Chattanooga, TN	96 Brimfield, William	6-5/320	Fr.	Norway, SC	5 McCoy, Rico	6-1/215	Jr.	Washington, DC
8 Crompton, Jonathan	6-4/220	Jr.	Waynesville, NC	78 Foster, Ramon	6-6/325	Sr.	Henning, TN	20 McKenzie, Nevin	6-2/215	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
Cunningham, Barry	5-11/170	Fr.	Clarksville, TN	72 Johnson, Ramone	6-5/315	So.	Chicago, IL	48 Myers-White, Adam	6-2/215	Sr.	Hamilton, OH
Shamblin, Tanner	5-11/185	So.	Cleveland, TN	65 McClendon, Jacques	6-3/320	Jr.	Cleveland, TN	56 Reveiz, Nick	5-10/225	So.	Farragut, TN
17 Stephens, Nick	6-4/215	So.	Flower Mound, TX	50 McNeil, Josh	6-4/280	Jr.	Collins, MS	Reveiz, Shane	6-1/220	Fr.	Knoxville, TN
RUNNING BACKS				DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				Storey, Jake	5-10/214	Fr.	Titusville, FL
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		42 Thompson, LaMarcus	6-1/220	So.	Lithonia, GA
45 Cooper, Kevin	6-0/240	So.	Chattanooga, TN	70 Myers, Darius	6-6/315	So.	Cordova, TN	35 Wilson, Elix	5-10/225	Sr.	Memphis, TN
3 Creer, Lennon	6-1/210	So.	Tatum, TX	75 Parker, Anthony	6-3/300	Sr.	Jonesboro, GA	DEFENSIVE BACKS			
27 Foster, Arian	6-1/215	Sr.	San Diego, CA	77 Pope, Cody	6-6/285	Fr.	Julian, CA	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
2 Hardesty, Montario	6-0/210	Jr.	New Bern, NC	51 Richard, Vladimir	6-4/300	Jr.	Sunrise, FL	36 Anderson, Anthony	6-1/180	Fr.	Knoxville, TN
44 Hawkins, Josh	6-1/200	Fr.	Loudon, TN	76 Sawtelle, Darris	6-6/295	Fr.	Bloomfield Hills, MI	14 Berry, Eric	5-11/195	So.	Fairburn, GA
43 Hill, Ryan	6-0/235	Sr.	Kingston, TN	79 Scott, Chris	6-5/310	Jr.	Riverdale, GA	25 Evans, Art	6-1/185	Fr.	Lakeland, FL
30 Holbert, David	6-1/250	Sr.	Nashville, TN	74 Shaw, Jarrod	6-4/330	So.	Lafayette, LA	Faison, Vince	6-0/195	Fr.	Lyons, GA
28 Poole, Tauron	5-10/200	Fr.	Toccoa, GA	66 Sullins, Cody	6-1/285	Jr.	Cottontown, TN	26 Fleming, C.J.	5-10/173	Fr.	Richmond, VA
46 Thomason, Brett	6-0/248	Sr.	Dalton, GA	69 Sullins, Cory	6-1/285	Jr.	Cottontown, TN	Freeman, Brent	5-10/180	Jr.	Suwanee, GA
9 Vereen, Daryl	6-0/200	Fr.	Charlotte, NC	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				9 Furlow, Derrick	6-1/190	Jr.	Crossett, AR
Wright, Justin	5-5/160	Jr.	St. Stephen, SC	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		37 Gaines, Antonio	5-9/185	Sr.	Covington, TN
RECEIVERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		31 Johnson, Marsalous	5-9/180	Jr.	Smyrna, TN
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		Jones, Joshua	6-0/203	So.	Indianapolis, IN
81 Briscoe, Josh	6-3/183	Sr.	Lawndale, NC	94 Brown, Wes	6-4/256	Jr.	Athens, AL	Love, Logan	6-0/176	So.	Louisville, TN
11 Campbell, Todd	6-0/185	Fr.	Nashville, TN	68 Darville, Stephan	6-0/285	Sr.	Rome, GA	7 Morley, Demetrice	6-2/195	Jr.	Miami, FL
Courtney, Geoff	6-1/175	So.	Knoxville, TN	Davis, Joshua	6-1/263	Fr.	Wheaton, IL	41 Rogan, Dennis	5-10/185	So.	Knoxville, TN
87 Hancock, Quintin	6-3/200	Jr.	St. Augustine, FL	95 Fisher, Walter	6-3/275	Sr.	Nashville, TN	13 Vinson, Brent	6-0/190	So.	Hampton, VA
Hensley, Steven	5-10/185	Jr.	Oliver Springs, TN	Harrison, Jonny	6-2/235	Jr.	Vienna, VA	Vinson, Hunter	5-10/200	Jr.	Munford, TN
4 Jones, Gerald	6-0/185	So.	Oklahoma City, OK	58 Langley, Donald	6-2/290	Fr.	Germantown, MD	24 Willingham, DeAngelo	6-0/200	Sr.	St. Mathews, SC
11 Maples, Tyler	6-1/190	Fr.	Maryville, TN	99 Martin, Ben	6-3/240	So.	Cincinnati, OH	Wolf, Tyler	6-0/200	So.	Cookeville, TN
6 Moore, Denarius	6-1/185	So.	Tatum, TX	46 Mathis, Andre	6-2/255	Jr.	Erie, PA	SPECIALISTS			
1 O'Neal, Kenny	6-0/195	Sr.	San Ramon, CA	Morrison, John	6-2/236	Fr.	Knoxville, TN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
82 Paige, Ahmad	6-1/180	Fr.	Monroe, LA	97 Nelson, Chase	6-4/270	Jr.	Tulsa, OK	Brown, Jake (LS)	6-0/230	Jr.	Conway, SC
Ray, Josh	5-11/185	Jr.	Dayton, TN	52 Thomas, Victor	6-4/270	So.	Olive Branch, MS	18 Cannon, Bram (H)	6-2/185	Jr.	Memphis, TN
21 Rogers, Austin	6-2/185	Jr.	Nashville, TN	Thompson, Michael	6-4/311	So.	Murphy, NC	47 Colquitt, Britton (P)	6-3/205	Sr.	Knoxville, TN
12 Taylor, Lucas	6-0/185	Sr.	Carencro, LA	88 Tritapoe, Phillip	6-5/250	Sr.	Kingsport, TN	53 Cox, Morgan (LS)	6-4/225	Jr.	Collierville, TN
Wiggins, Julian	6-1/175	So.	Brentwood, TN	84 Walker, Chris	6-3/230	So.	Memphis, TN	95 Cunningham, Chad (P)	6-3/210	So.	Dawsonville, GA
TIGHT ENDS				55 Williams, Dan	6-3/310	Jr.	Memphis, TN	57 Guess, Nick (LS)	6-3/230	Fr.	Knoxville, TN
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		LINEBACKERS				Hall, Orion (P)	6-0/170	Jr.	Marietta, GA
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		Koyano, Takayuki (K)	5-10/211	Fr.	Maryville, TN
80 Cottam, Jeff	6-8/260	Jr.	Germantown, TN	Barnes, Brett	6-1/225	Sr.	Knoxville, TN	26 Lincoln, Daniel (K)	6-0/204	So.	Ocala, FL
Lakin, Jordan	5-11/227	Fr.	Powell, TN	Browne, Lee	5-11/168	Fr.	Raleigh, NC	Marrs, T.J. (LS)	5-9/214	Fr.	Bluefield, VA
Lehning, Ben	6-0/219	Fr.	Nashville, TN	19 Donald, Chris	6-2/225	Fr.	Huntingdon, TN	Mathis, Devin (K)	5-11/150	Fr.	Chattanooga, TN
McKinnie, Jake	6-4/240	Jr.	Henderson, TN	43 Frazier, Savion	6-2/210	So.	Woodbridge, VA	Slutsky, Daniel (K)	5-10/181	Fr.	Bourbonnais, IL
88 Stocker, Luke	6-6/245	So.	Berea, KY	40 Johnson, Austin	6-2/242	Fr.	Hickory, NC				

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-4 (6-2 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	at California	L	45-31	72,516
S. 8	Southern Miss	W	39-19	106,311
S. 15	at Florida	L	59-20	90,707
S. 22	Arkansas State	W	48-27	102,368
O. 6	Georgia	W	35-14	107,052
O. 13	at Mississippi State	W	33-21	50,217
O. 20	at Alabama	L	41-17	92,138
O. 27	South Carolina	W	(ot) 27-24	105,962
N. 3	UL Lafayette	W	59-7	96,197
N. 10	Arkansas	W	34-13	104,459
N. 17	Vanderbilt	W	25-24	105,077
N. 24	at Kentucky	W	(4ot) 52-50	69,813
D. 1	%LSU	L	21-14	73,832
J. 1	#Wisconsin	W	21-17	60,121

%SEC Championship Game #Outback Bowl

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Erik Ainge	519	325	3,522	31	10
Jonathan Crompton	12	7	97	1	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Arian Foster	245	1,193	4.9	12	
Montario Hardesty	89	373	4.2	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Lucas Taylor	73	1,000	13.7	5	
Austin Rogers	56	624	11.1	4	
Josh Briscoe	56	557	9.9	6	
Chris Brown	41	282	6.9	6	

Kicking: Daniel Lincoln, 21-29 FGs, 52-53 XPs, 115 points

Tackles: Jerod Mayo, 140; Rico McCoy, 106

Sacks: Robert Ayers, 4

Interceptions: Eric Berry, 5

Returning Players in Bold

a team leader last season and earned consensus freshman All-America honors. He led SEC freshmen with 86 tackles and picked off five passes that he returned for a school-record 222 yards. Morley, a gifted South Florida product, has re-joined the team after a one-year hiatus, having put his grades and attitude in order. Morley boasts the same sort of athleticism as Berry and has a nose for the ball. UT is deep at the corners, as last season's injuries led to four different players getting starting experience. Junior Marsalous Johnson and sophomore Brent Vinson are the favorites to start this season, but seniors Antonio Gaines and DeAngelo Willingham are making a push.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Daniel Lincoln returns after a freshman All-America season that saw him score 115 points, second-most ever by a full-time kicker. Lincoln connected on 21-of-27 field goal attempts within 49 yards. Sophomore Chad Cunningham is expected to handle the punting duties through at least the first five games, as senior Britton Colquitt serves a suspension for a violation of team rules. Sophomore Dennis Rogan emerged from unheralded prospect to one of the top return men in the SEC, averaging 9.7 yards on punt returns and 29.5 on kick returns.

RICO MCCOY



SCOUTING THE VOLS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP TENNESSEE "After playing them, I was surprised that they won the SEC East. I was surprised anybody beat out Florida. They had some luck. They fumbled the ball against South Carolina, (the ball) goes by three South Carolina players and a big lineman falls on it, or they would lose that game. Vanderbilt missed a field goal by a foot against them. ... Don't know enough about Jonathan Crompton, but he will have a hard time playing as well as Ainge did. Ainge was remarkable last year. ... Eric Berry is a really good player. One of the best defensive players we will see this year. ... I don't think the change (in offensive coordinators) will be a huge change this year. They still have some very good running backs. Dave (Clawson) liked to run the ball at Richmond. I don't see a huge change. He will do what he needs to do to move the football. He's solid. ... The offensive line should be very good, which is such a positive. If you can rely on good line play that helps out everything else you do."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Fulmer power Phillip Fulmer has the best winning percentage (.766) among active coaches with 10 years or more at their current school. Fulmer's 147-45 record includes a 93-29 mark in Southeastern Conference regular-season games, 44-33 record against ranked teams and 24-7 in games decided by three points or less. Fulmer's 147 wins are seventh-most in SEC history, with South Carolina's Steve Spurrier (143) the only other current coach ranked in the top 10.

Foster eclipsing greats Tailback Arian Foster recorded his first 1,000-yard rushing campaign his junior year and is on pace to become UT's all-time leading rusher. Foster ranks seventh with 2,394 yards, ahead of such notables as Charlie Garner, Reggie Cobb and Travis Stephens. Foster needs 685 yards to pass Travis Henry, who set the mark in 2000. Foster set career-highs with 1,193 yards rushing and 340 yards receiving; his 1,650 all-purpose yards were just 71 shy of Cobb's UT record of 1,721 set in 1987.

Homefield advantage The Vols were the only SEC team to finish the 2007 season with an undefeated home record, going 7-0 in Neyland Stadium. It's the sixth time Tennessee has gone undefeated at home under Phillip Fulmer but first since 1999. The Vols play UAB, Florida, Northern Illinois, Mississippi State, Alabama, Wyoming and Kentucky at home this season. UT averaged 101.8-percent capacity for home games last season, and the Vols' average attendance of 103,918 led the SEC for a 34th consecutive season. Neyland Stadium is in the midst of renovations. By 2010, UT will have spent approximately \$110 million in improvements.

Super Vols At least one former Tennessee player has played in each of the past 17 Super Bowls and 20 of the last 21. Former Volunteer Gibril Wilson anchored a N.Y. Giants secondary from his safety position that held New England in check in Super Bowl XLII. Former Vols receivers Kelley Washington and Donte Stallworth played for the Patriots. Tennessee had 36 active players on NFL rosters entering last season, fifth among NCAA schools.

Primetime in overtime Tennessee has proven to have a recipe for success in overtime games, posting a 7-1 record since the rule was put in place in 1996. The Vols won both of their overtime games last season, topping South Carolina 27-24 and winning at Kentucky, 52-50.

Bruce Schwartzman

2008 SIGNEES

The national recruiting rankings say it was a disappointing class for Tennessee, but Phillip Fulmer says aside from falling short one offensive and one defensive lineman, this class works well for the Vols. "We may be short in a couple of spots, but when you figure (starting safety) Demetrice Morley returned and took a scholarship and look at the quality of players, it looks like a really good class."

Both Rivals.com and Scout.com rated UT's recruiting class 36th in the nation. But as Fulmer points out, a closer look reveals UT met its immediate needs. Tight end Aaron Douglas, a local standout from Maryville, could play his way onto the two-deep this fall and has the skills to develop into a productive player immediately. Tailback Tauren Poole could do the same in the backfield. Poole, a powerful runner with deceptive speed, rushed for 2,138 yards last season and enrolled at UT in January, giving him the opportunity to prove himself in spring drills.

Fullback Austin Johnson (Hickory, N.C.) was another early enrollee, and his spring experience paid off when senior fullback David Holbert went down with a knee injury that could carry over into the fall.

Preston Bailey, a 6'5", 320-pound prospect from Nashville's Montgomery Bell Academy, looks to be the most impressive of the three offensive linemen the Vols signed. Receiver Rod Wilks was the highest rated player in the state of Tennessee coming out of Smyrna, and fellow receiver E.J. Abrams-Ward (Thomasville, N.C.) has enough talent to compete for a spot in the Vols' receiver rotation.

Quarterback Casey Kelly, from Sarasota, Fla., could be a steal if he chooses the college football route over baseball.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Linebackers	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Running Backs	3
Wide Receivers	3
Defensive Backs	2
Defensive Linemen	2
Quarterbacks	1
Tight Ends	1

BY STATE

Tennessee	5
Georgia	3
Louisiana	3
North Carolina	2
Alabama	2
Florida	2
Mississippi	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

AARON DOUGLAS • TE • MARYVILLE, TN

Tight end Aaron Douglas didn't get caught up in recruiting battles. Tennessee won that war more than 20 years ago, when his father, David, was drafted into the NFL after playing on the Vols' offensive line under Phillip Fulmer. "I just always knew I wanted to play for Tennessee," says Douglas, a 6'6", 245-pounder who capped a 60-0 high school career at nearby Maryville High School.

Douglas underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery in March but is expected to see playing time this fall for the Vols.

"My dad told me how great Coach Fulmer was for him," Douglas says. "A coach with the Bengals told Dad he was drafted and made that team because of his technique, and he said Coach Fulmer was the reason he had that technique."

David Douglas, who played for UT from 1982-1985, says having Aaron play for Fulmer is a dream. "I know Aaron's in good hands," David Douglas says. "Me and my wife, Karla, wanted him somewhere where we knew he would be watched over."

As Karla Horton, Aaron's mother won a national basketball title playing for Pat Summitt in 1987. Aaron played basketball, too, helping Maryville win a state championship in that sport.

"I'm honored to be coaching this young man," Fulmer says. "Not just because of the respect I have for his family, but he was a must for us to have at tight end."

E.J. ABRAMS-WARD WR 6'5" 210 THOMASVILLE, NC
Ranked No. 1 prospect in North Carolina and No. 11 athlete in nation by Rivals.com. Named Class 1A Offensive Player of the Year as a senior.

CARSON ANDERSON OL 6'3" 275 FLORENCE, AL
Named first-team Class 6A All-State by ASWA. Father, Terry, played linebacker at UT from '76-78. Uncle, Charlie Anderson, played defensive end from '74-76.

PRESTON BAILEY OL 6'5" 320 NASHVILLE, TN
Named Division II Mr. Football Lineman of the Year after leading MBA to 13-0 record and Division II-2A state championship. Ranked No. 7 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com and No. 30 offensive tackle in nation by Scout.com.

BEN BARTHOLOMEW FB 6'3" 225 NASHVILLE, TN
Named Division II Mr. Football Back of the Year. Member of undefeated MBA state title team. Brother, Will, played for 1998 national championship team at UT. Grandfather, Sam, was captain of Vols' 1939 SEC title team.

WILLIE BOHANNON DE 6'3" 230 MOBILE, AL
Recorded 73 tackles, nine sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior; 57 tackles and 15 sacks as a junior; 70 tackles and 18 sacks as a sophomore.

AARON DOUGLAS TE 6'6" 245 MARYVILLE, TN
Ranked No. 2 prospect in Tennessee and No. 5 tight end in country by Rivals.com. Named Class 4A Mr. Football Lineman of the Year in 2006 and 2007. Finished career at Maryville HS with 60-0 record and four straight Class 4A state titles.

STEVEN FOWLKES WR 6'5" 213 COLLEGE PARK, GA
Recorded 53 tackles and 13.5 sacks on defense; 24 catches for 400 yards and six TDs on offense as a senior.

MONTORI HUGHES DL 6'5" 255 MURFREESBORO, TN
Named Region 4-Class 5A Defensive MVP as a senior. Registered 106 tackles, including 25 tackles for a loss and 13 sacks in '07.

AUSTIN JOHNSON FB 6'2" 242 HICKORY, NC
Ranked No. 12 prospect in North Carolina by Rivals.com. Participated in Shrine Bowl, serving as team captain. Named All-Conference Defensive Player of the Year in '06 and '07. Recorded 210 tackles; rushed for 18 TDs as a senior.

CASEY KELLY QB 6'4" 195 SARASOTA, FL
Ranked No. 17 pro-style quarterback in country by Rivals.com. Also a top baseball prospect. Had 11-0 record with 0.24 ERA as a pitcher in '07. Father and uncle played for MLB's Blue Jays; brother and cousin currently play in Minors.

HERMAN LATHERS LB 6'0" 210 BATON ROUGE, LA
Registered 114 tackles, 18 tackles for a loss, five sacks and two INTs in '07.

TAUREN POOLE RB 5'10" 200 TOCCOA, GA
Ranked No. 20 running back in nation by ESPN.com. Rushed for 2,138 yards as senior; 1,925 yards as junior; 1,350 yards as sophomore.

STEPHAUN RAINES DB 6'0" 180 DALTON, GA
Originally signed with UT in 2006. Redshirted 2007 season at Coffeyville (KS) CC.

DALLAS THOMAS OL 6'6" 260 BATON ROUGE, LA
Ranked No. 26 offensive guard in country by Scout.com.

PRENTISS WAGGNER DB 6'2" 180 CLINTON, LA
Ranked No. 7 cornerback in nation by ESPN.com and No. 17 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com. Recorded 45 tackles and nine INTs in '07; 70 tackles and 16 INTs in '06. Named Class 2A All-State as a junior and senior, Class 2A MVP as a junior.

MARLON WALLS LB 6'4" 230 OLIVE BRANCH, MS
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.com. Named Player of the Year by Memphis Touchdown Club in 2007. Registered 127 tackles, 11 sacks and five forced fumbles as a senior; 92 tackles and 13 sacks as a junior.

RODRIQUEZ WILKS WR 6'1" 195 SMYRNA, TN
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com and No. 16 wide receiver in nation by ESPN.com. Recorded 77 catches for 1,170 yards and 20 TDs as a senior. Named Class 5A Mr. Football Back of the Year in 2007.

GERALD WILLIAMS LB 6'4" 245 LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL
Transfer from City College of San Francisco. Also played for Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy. Ranked No. 7 inside linebacker in nation by Rivals in '04.

ARE YOU READY



ERIC BERRY

by Mike Griffith

FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Tennessee strong safety Eric Berry has been ready since he recognized the Hank Williams Jr. jingle from Monday Night Football when he was 3 years old.

"I still remember Eric getting in a three-point stance right before Monday Night Football came on. It was like clockwork. He'd wait for Hank to start singin'," says James Berry, a former UT tailback (1978-81) and team captain whose son has followed his footsteps into Big Orange Country. "As soon as that song started, he would come out of his stance and start running up and down the hallway."

Eric Berry hasn't slowed down yet en route to becoming one of the biggest impact players in the Volunteers' storied history.

"Eric did so many things that were uncharacteristic of a freshman, so physical, such a student of the game and great character," UT secondary coach Larry Slade says. "Very seldom do you see a guy that comes in as a freshman safety and be that dominating. I don't know if I've ever seen anyone like him."

That's saying a mouthful, considering Slade has coached numerous players into the NFL over his 35-year career.

Berry's only a sophomore, but a promising NFL career seems a sure bet, too. The 5'11", 195-pounder has been a starter for the Vols since the first game of his freshman season. He made starts at nickel back (Cal), strong safety (Southern Miss) and cornerback (Florida) before settling in at strong safety.

Berry picked off a team-high five passes last season that he returned for a school-record 222 yards in earning consensus freshman All-America and All-SEC second-team honors. The awards will be stuffed into an overflowing trophy case that already includes such high school accomplishments as *Parade* All-American, Georgia Gatorade Player of the Year, U.S. Army All-Star team selection as well as his status as a National Honor Society member and Georgia's Class AAAA 200-meter track champion in 2005.

A four-year starter at quarterback and safety at Creekside High School in Metro Atlanta, Berry was the sort of can't-miss prospect every school covets. Georgia, Auburn, USC and Ohio State fought for his services, but Berry hatched his own plan to attend Tennessee.

"I just sat down with Coach (John) Chavis, and we started talking about the upcoming

season," says Berry, referring to his father's former UT teammate and the current Vols' defensive coordinator. "I didn't necessarily expect to be a starter, but coach Chavis told me I had the ability and the potential."

It was all the encouragement Berry needed to carry his high school success onto the collegiate gridiron.

"You could see his maturity level, his physical toughness and work ethic," Fulmer says. "It was there in two-a-days...tough tackler, quick learner. He's the best freshman defensive back I've ever coached."

Berry's 4.31-second speed in the 40-yard dash is all the more effective because of his insatiable film study habits, which have carried over to his teammates in the UT secondary.

"I sat down with them to talk a little and watch about 15 minutes of film before a (spring) scrimmage," Slade says. "I got up and left the room, and he and (teammate) Demetric Morley came after me and said, 'Coach, we need to see more.' That's not something that you see happen a whole bunch in spring drills. Those guys are hungry."

James Berry started his son on film study when Eric played various skill positions on offense and linebacker on defense in the youth

football ranks. At the time, watching tape was merely quality time for the family.

"Eric was 9 or 10 when his mom started taping all of his games, and then we'd sit around and watch them a couple of days later," James says. "At first, he just enjoyed watching the game. But then he started watching what every player was doing and looking where he could improve."

"We'd sit back and talk about it. We were just sitting back chilling out watching, enjoying it, and talking about it."

James Berry admits there is pride seeing his son wear orange, but he allowed Eric to make his choice between schools after attending camps at Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio State and with Nike. "He told me he didn't want to make his decision early," James says, "because he wanted coaches and recruiters to come to the Creekside games to see his teammates, so it would help them have an opportunity to be recruited."

It's that type of camaraderie and conscientiousness that led Berry to become an instant team leader at Tennessee. "He's one of those rare ones you can just know will turn out," Chavis said. "Part of it is his commitment, part of it is his knack, and part of it is his athletic ability. He anticipates it, he sees it, and then he has the ability to react quickly."

Berry is industrious in his training methods, finding drill work outside of UT's intense voluntary offseason conditioning program.

"This offseason I've gotten better with my one-on-one cover skills," says Berry, rated the No. 1 cornerback by various recruiting services coming out of high school. "I worked out with the soccer girls at UT, playing defense in front of them. It helped me with my footwork. Before long, some of my teammates were coming out and working out with them, too."

Berry's open-field running abilities were evident at Creekside, where he averaged 12 yards per carry at quarterback, rushing for 1,489 yards.

UT coaches told him they wanted him to master his defensive abilities before exploring opportunities on offense.

Berry took snaps at quarterback this spring, with new offensive coordinator Dave Clawson in search of playmaking options for certain packages.

"If they call my number, I'm ready," Berry says. "If not, I'll be fine."

Either way, Eric Berry is ready for some football.





HEAD COACH: BOBBY JOHNSON RECORD AT SCHOOL: 20-50 (6 YEARS) CAREER RECORD: 80-86 (14 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TED CAIN DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: BRUCE FOWLER

NASHVILLE, TENN. VANDERBILT STADIUM (39,773)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

73

COMMODORES

SEC EAST
PREDICTION

6

VANDERBILT
COMMODORES

Bobby Johnson has increased the competitiveness of Vanderbilt football — the Commodores' .400 winning percentage (14-21 record) since 2005 is the best three-year mark at the school since the early 1980s — but the veteran head coach has yet to break through and take his team to a bowl game.

Vanderbilt has come painfully close in recent years: The 2005 team managed a 5-6 record with four of the losses by seven points or less, and the '07 Commodores, arguably the school's most talented team in decades, went 5-7 with two of the defeats by three points or less.

With the bowl-less streak now at 25 years, Johnson and the Commodores must forge ahead without three-time first-team All-SEC receiver Earl Bennett, all five starters on the offensive line and five key starters on the defensive front seven.

Oh, and have we mentioned that there is a bit of a quarterback controversy?

QUARTERBACKS For the first time since 2002 — when Jay Cutler, then a red-shirt freshman, beat out junior Benji Walker — there is some mystery as to who the starting quarterback will be for Vanderbilt's season-opener. After a solid sophomore season in 2006, Chris Nickson appeared to be well on his way to an uninterrupted three-year run under center for the Commodores. But Nickson's junior season was a struggle. A series of injuries (leg and shoulder) adversely affected his performance, though the severity of his ailments wasn't really known until much later in the season. Nickson started the first six games but gave way to Mackenzi Adams against Georgia.

Adams guided Vanderbilt to wins in his first two starts — at South Carolina, vs. Miami (Ohio) — but Vanderbilt lost its last four games to drop out of bowl contention.

Nickson and Adams have a similar skill set and both are a good fit to operate the Commodores' multiple offense that asks the quarterback to run the ball with regularity. At his best, Nickson is the better player, but Adams plays with toughness and is a more vocal leader. Johnson doesn't plan on naming a starter until the fall, but the best guess is that the job is Nickson's to lose. "We have plenty of time to make that determination," Johnson says. And the coach is quick to add that this is more than a two-man race. Sophomore Jared Funk and redshirt freshman Larry Smith both played well in the spring. The staff won't hesitate to give one of the younger quarterbacks a chance if the veterans struggle.

1

Vanderbilt has only had one 100-yard rushing game from a tailback in SEC play over the past two seasons. Cassen Jackson-Garrison, who graduated in the spring, ran for 119 yards in a win over Ole Miss last September.

RUNNING BACKS Vanderbilt's rushing numbers were decent last year — the top three backs combined for 1,207 yards on a 4.0 average — but the Commodores lacked a big-play threat in the backfield. The longest run from scrimmage from one of the tailbacks was 26 yards. Just like at quarterback, there are two candidates for the starting assignment, and just like at quarterback, Johnson is reluctant to name a starter. But the general feeling is that junior Jared Hawkins, who has averaged 5.5 yards per carry in a reserve role the past two seasons, has surged past Jeff Jennings, a senior who has struggled to regain his form after tearing his ACL late in the 2006 season. Diminutive sophomore Gaston Miller (generously listed at 5'7") figures to get a bunch of carries as well. "He is a guy that can make people miss," Johnson says. "He has the big-play capabilities that we didn't have out of the position last year."

RECEIVERS The loss of Bennett, the SEC's all-time receptions leader, and Alex Washington, a junior who tore his ACL in the spring, leaves the Commodores a bit short-handed at receiver. There are two known quantities — fifth-year seniors George Smith and Sean Walker — but Johnson will be searching for some playmakers during preseason camp to fill out the Dores' three-receiver sets. Junior Justin Wheeler and redshirt freshman Udom Umoh both figure to play their way into the rotation, but there are three newcomers to watch — senior Andrew Diomande (a transfer from Clemson), redshirt freshman Jamie Graham (a former cornerback who played basketball for the Commodores last winter) and true freshman John Cole. Graham only suited up at receiver for two days during the spring, but Johnson is clearly excited about the possibilities. "He will pass several people (on the depth chart)," says the coach. Also, expect to see more of starting cornerback D.J. Moore on offense this fall. "We will do more things with D.J.," Johnson says. "He will run some routes for us. We won't just hand it to him like

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE DORES

Vanderbilt has had trouble putting together a complete team. When the offense has shined, the defense has struggled; when the defense has been stout, the offense has sputtered. This year figures to be no different. Despite losing some key personnel, the Commodores' defense — which ranked 16th in the nation last fall — should be outstanding. Depth on the defensive line is a concern (when isn't it?), but the secondary will be among the best in the league, and coach **Bobby Johnson** is confident his linebacking corps will be strong. Offensively, there are issues. The Dores lost the SEC's all-time leader in receptions (Earl Bennett), and all five starters on the offensive line must be replaced. The quarterback position is also unsettled. **Chris Nickson** would appear to be the No. 1 option heading into preseason camp, but **Mackenzi Adams**, who started the final six games, sophomore **Jared Funk** and red-shirt freshman **Larry Smith** will also be in the mix. Placekicking continues to be a concern as well. Johnson can't have very much confidence in senior **Bryant Hahnfeldt**, who has missed 16-of-37 kicks over the past two years. The job might go to a true freshman. The non-conference schedule, while not overly taxing, is more difficult than last year's slate that featured all four games at home. Breaking the quarter-century bowl-less streak will be very difficult.



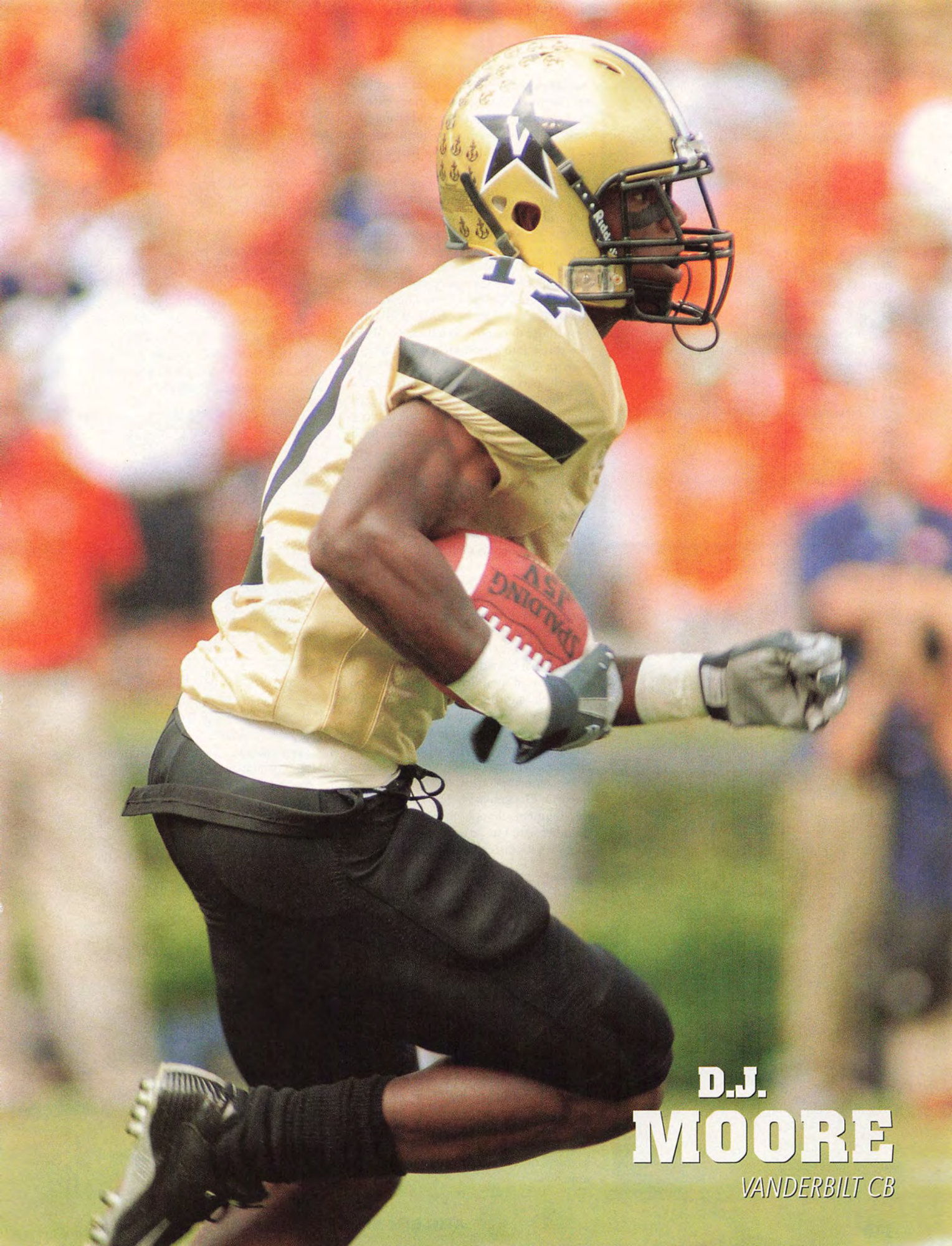
GEORGE SMITH

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 28	at Miami (OH)	*
S. 4	South Carolina	L
S. 13	Rice	W
S. 20	at Ole Miss	*
O. 4	Auburn	L
O. 11	at Mississippi State	L
O. 18	at Georgia	L
O. 25	Duke	W
N. 8	Florida	L
N. 15	at Kentucky	L
N. 22	Tennessee	L
N. 29	at Wake Forest	L

* Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Moore: Sam Jordan; Smith: Greg McWilliams/Icon SM



D.J.
MOORE
VANDERBILT CB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR	80 Justin Wheeler (Jr.)	23 Udom Umoh (Fr.)
WR	88 George Smith (Sr.)	25 Jamie Graham (Fr.)
WR	7 Sean Walker (Sr.)	26 Andrew Diomande (Sr.)
LT	76 Thomas Welch (Jr.)	65 Kyle Fischer (Fr.)
LG	73 Ryan Custer (Jr.)	61 Nick Forte (Jr.)
C	70 Bradley Vierling (Jr.)	71 Joey Bailey (So.)
RG	70 Drew Gardner (Jr.)	65 Kyle Fischer (Fr.)
RT	66 Eric Hensley (Jr.)	77 James Williams (Fr.)
TE	85 Jake Bradford (Jr.)	82 Justin Green (So.)
QB	3 Chris Nickson (Sr.)	9 Mackenzi Adams (Jr.)
RB	31 Jared Hawkins (Jr.)	21 Jeff Jennings (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	96 Steven Stone (Jr.)	89 Terrell Brannon (So.)
DT	98 Greg Billinger (Jr.)	99 Derrius Dowell (Jr.)
DT	58 Adam Smotherman (So.)	62 T.J. Greenstone (Fr.)
DE	90 Broderick Stewart (Jr.)	93 Theron Kadri (So.)
LB	35 Brandon Bryant (Jr.)	52 Nate Campbell (So.)
LB	30 Patrick Benoist (Jr.)	43 Chris Marve (Fr.)
LB	49 John Stokes (So.)	91 Austin Newton (So.)
CB	5 Myron Lewis (Jr.)	20 Jared Fagan (Sr.)
CB	17 D.J. Moore (Jr.)	16 Alan Strong (So.)
SS	33 Reshard Langford (Sr.)	11 Brent Trice (Jr.)
FS	2 Ryan Hamilton (Jr.)	29 Joel Caldwell (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	8 Bryant Hahnfeldt (Sr.)	KR	17 D.J. Moore (Jr.)
P	39 Brett Upson (Jr.)	PR	80 Justin Wheeler (Jr.)

RESHARD LANGFORD



we did last year." The tight end hasn't been very involved in the passing attack over the past two seasons, but that could change this year. Jake Bradford, who heads up the depth chart, caught only four passes in '07.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Despite losing all five starters on the offensive line, Vanderbilt will feature a veteran group that surprisingly has a decent amount of experience. Four spots appear to be set — and all four projected starters are fourth-year juniors who have seen significant action. Thomas Welch, a former high school quarterback, will replace Chris Williams, a first-round draft pick, at left tackle. Welch was thrust into a prominent role as a freshman in 2006 and has progressed nicely over the past two seasons. Right tackle Eric Hensley broke his ankle in the spring game but is expected to make a complete recovery. The big battle in fall camp figures to be at right guard, where junior Drew Gardner will have to fight off a host of candidates, most notably two promising redshirt freshman, Kyle Fischer and James Williams. Depth will be an issue, but don't be surprised if there isn't much of a drop-off from the line this fall.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN Johnson didn't hesitate when asked what was his biggest concern heading into the fall. "Depth on the defensive line," he said. Vanderbilt lost three starters, including both tackles, from a group that helped the Dores rank 16th in the nation in total defense. There is some quality among the starters, most notably playmaking end Broderick Stewart and emerging tackle Greg Billinger. The 6'5", 228-pound Stewart, who led the team with six sacks, will make the transition from a pass-rushing specialist to an every-down lineman. The staff has been pleased with the development of sophomore tackle Adam Smotherman, but he has some ongoing issues with his knee that may limit his snaps.

LINEBACKERS Despite the loss of two solid veterans at linebacker — Marcus Buggs and second-team All-SEC pick Jonathan Goff — Johnson expects his linebacking corps to be a team strength. The steady Patrick Benoist will move to the middle to replace Goff. Benoist shined in the Dores' upset win at South Carolina, recording six tackles (including one sack) and forcing a fumble. Strong-side backer John Stokes, who turned down offers from Michigan, Alabama and Tennessee coming out of high school, impressed the coaching staff during spring drills. Brandon Bryant, a starter last year until injuring his foot at Auburn, will battle Nate Campbell on the weak side. Redshirt freshman Chris Marve will find a way to get on the field somehow.

KEY COMMODORES

D.J. Moore, CB/WR The first-team All-SEC cornerback will be counted on to make plays for the Dores' offense as well.

Reshard Langford, S Continues to fly under the radar, but big-hitting safety is a big reason Vanderbilt's secondary is among the SEC's best.

Patrick Benoist, LB Coaching staff loves the steady play provided by the versatile junior linebacker.

Broderick Stewart, DE Will be tested as an every-down end but will make plenty of plays in the opponents' backfield.

George Smith, WR Will be asked to take on a larger role now that Earl Bennett has moved on to the NFL.



KEY LOSSES

Earl Bennett, WR One of the most productive receivers in SEC history will be difficult to replace.

Chris Williams, LT Was the first Commodore offensive lineman to be drafted in the first round since Will Wolford in 1986.

Jonathan Goff, LB Two-time All-SEC pick was another in a long line of top Commodore linebackers.

Curtis Gatewood, DE Two-year starter had 10.5 career sacks.

Theo Horrocks, DT Never flashy but always a consistent force on the interior of the defensive line.

RISEING STAR

Greg Billinger has been a good player for Vanderbilt throughout his first two seasons. Now, it appears the 6'3", 290-pound defensive tackle is ready to be a great player. "Greg had an outstanding spring," coach Bobby Johnson says. "He has really stepped up his play." Billinger, who originally committed to Georgia, will be one of three new starters on the Vanderbilt defensive line.



Langford: Mike Mossitt Jr.; Stewart: Tim Caniz/Albion Sports



2008 VANDERBILT ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				LINEBACKERS							
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN					
9 Adams, Mackenzi	6-2/212	Jr.	Tulsa, OK	63 Aaron, Chris	6-3/290	So.	Palos Verdes, CA	40 Baggerley, Bo	6-1/210	Sr.	Forsyth, GA				
12 Funk, Jared	6-2/200	So.	Long Grove, IL	62 Ashabrunner, Rob	6-2/275	Fr.	Beaumont, TX	30 Benoist, Patrick	6-0/218	Jr.	Southlake, TX				
3 Nickson, Chris	6-1/210	Sr.	Brundidge, AL	71 Bailey, Joey	6-4/275	So.	Trussville, AL	35 Bryant, Brandon	6-0/230	Jr.	Cincinnati, OH				
19 Smith, Larry	6-2/205	Fr.	Prattville, AL	73 Custer, Ryan	6-3/295	Jr.	Troy, OH	52 Campbell, Nate	6-3/230	So.	Hazen, AR				
RUNNING BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	65 Fischer, Kyle	6-6/305	Fr.	Columbia, SC	38 Flowers, Davis	6-0/215	Fr.	Dothan, AL				
				41 Doster, Jermaine	5-10/205	Fr.	Tampa, FL	46 Garcia, Michael	6-0/238	So.	Jacksonville, FL				
				31 Hawkins, Jared	5-10/200	Jr.	Spring, TX	45 Johnson, Chris	6-1/230	Jr.	Birmingham, AL				
				21 Jennings, Jeff	6-1/215	Sr.	Dandridge, TN	43 Marve, Chris	6-0/238	Fr.	Memphis, TN				
				27 Miller, Gaston	5-7/170	So.	Murfreesboro, TN	91 Newton, Austin	6-2/215	So.	McDonough, GA				
				28 Reeves, Kennard	6-0/200	So.	Duluth, GA	49 Stokes, John	6-5/238	So.	Memphis, TN				
				34 van Rensburg, Ryan	6-1/215	Fr.	Jacksonville, FL	51 Tropeano, Elvio	5-8/200	Fr.	Pomfret, CT				
				RECEIVERS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	79 Vance, Ryan	6-3/285	Jr.	Bellaire, TX	DEFENSIVE BACKS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
60 Vierling, Bradley	6-3/292	Jr.	Warminster, PA					14 Allen, Josh	5-9/185	Sr.	Roswell, GA				
76 Welch, Thomas	6-7/300	Jr.	Brentwood, TN					29 Caldwell, Joel	6-1/195	Jr.	Hoover, AL				
77 Williams, James	6-6/305	Fr.	Smyrna, TN					20 Fagan, Jared	5-10/182	Sr.	Waldorf, MD				
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN					2 Hamilton, Ryan	6-2/210	Jr.	Wycombe, PA				
								33 Langford, Reshard	6-2/208	Sr.	Tanner, AL				
								5 Lewis, Myron	6-2/202	Jr.	Pompano Beach, FL				
								17 Moore, D.J.	5-10/182	Jr.	Spartanburg, SC				
98 Billinger, Greg	6-3/290	Jr.	Lilburn, GA	41 Parker, Will Roe	5-10/175	Fr.	Humboldt, TN								
89 Brannon, Teriall	6-3/235	So.	Spartanburg, SC	28 Schultz, Alex	5-11/175	Jr.	Wayland, MA								
50 Cramer, Bo	6-4/265	Fr.	Charlotte, NC	6 Spead, Darlron	5-10/185	Jr.	Kingsland, GA								
99 Dowell, Derrius	6-3/285	Jr.	Atlanta, GA	16 Strong, Alan	5-10/175	So.	Atlanta, GA								
67 Elledge, James	6-4/285	Fr.	Birmingham, AL	24 Tompkins, Rich	5-10/180	Fr.	Nashville, TN								
42 Fugger, Tim	6-4/250	Fr.	Oak Brook, IL	11 Trice, Brent	6-3/215	Jr.	Orange, VA								
62 Greenstone, T.J.	6-3/275	Fr.	Lawrenceville, GA	46 Vaughn, Duane	6-1/195	Fr.	Goodlettsville, TN								
93 Kadri, Theron	6-3/250	So.	Brighton, TN	SPECIALISTS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN								
93 Leinweber, David	6-5/245	Jr.	Bloomfield Hills, MI					50 Carroll, Thomas (K)	5-9/160	Jr.	Columbus, GA				
94 Logan, Kikko	6-2/235	So.	Elba, AL					8 Hahnfeldt, Bryant (K/P)	5-11/185	Sr.	Nashville, TN				
95 Panke, Sam	6-2/230	Jr.	St. Louis, MO					97 Laughrey, John (K)	5-11/180	So.	McKenzie, TN				
59 Smotherman, Adam	6-4/275	So.	Smyrna, TN					75 Miller, Nick (LS)	6-3/260	Jr.	Matthews, NC				
90 Stewart, Broderick	6-5/228	Jr.	Newnan, GA					39 Upson, Brett (P)	5-11/190	Jr.	Griffin, GA				
96 Stone, Steven	6-5/260	Jr.	Conway, AR												

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 5-7 (2-6 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Richmond	W	41-17	32,215
S. 8	Alabama	L	24-10	39,773
S. 15	Ole Miss	W	31-17	34,180
S. 29	Eastern Michigan	W	30-7	37,220
O. 6	at Auburn	L	35-7	82,657
O. 13	Georgia	L	20-17	39,773
O. 20	at South Carolina	W	17-6	79,212
O. 27	Miami (OH)	W	24-13	26,450
N. 3	at Florida	L	49-22	90,222
N. 10	Kentucky	L	27-20	39,773
N. 17	at Tennessee	L	25-24	105,077
N. 24	Wake Forest	L	31-17	27,650

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mackenzi Adams	182	101	1,043	9	6
Chris Nickson	119	62	763	6	5
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Cassen Jackson-Garrison	148	594	4.0	5	
Jeff Jennings	96	346	3.6	2	
Mackenzi Adams	87	289	3.3	3	
Jared Hawkins	60	267	4.4	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Earl Bennett	75	830	11.1	5	
George Smith	32	397	12.4	3	
Sean Walker	20	270	13.5	3	

Kicking: Bryant Hahnfeldt, 13-20 FGs, 28-29 XPs, 67 points

Tackles: Jonathan Goff, 113; D.J. Moore, 83

Sacks: Broderick Stewart, 6

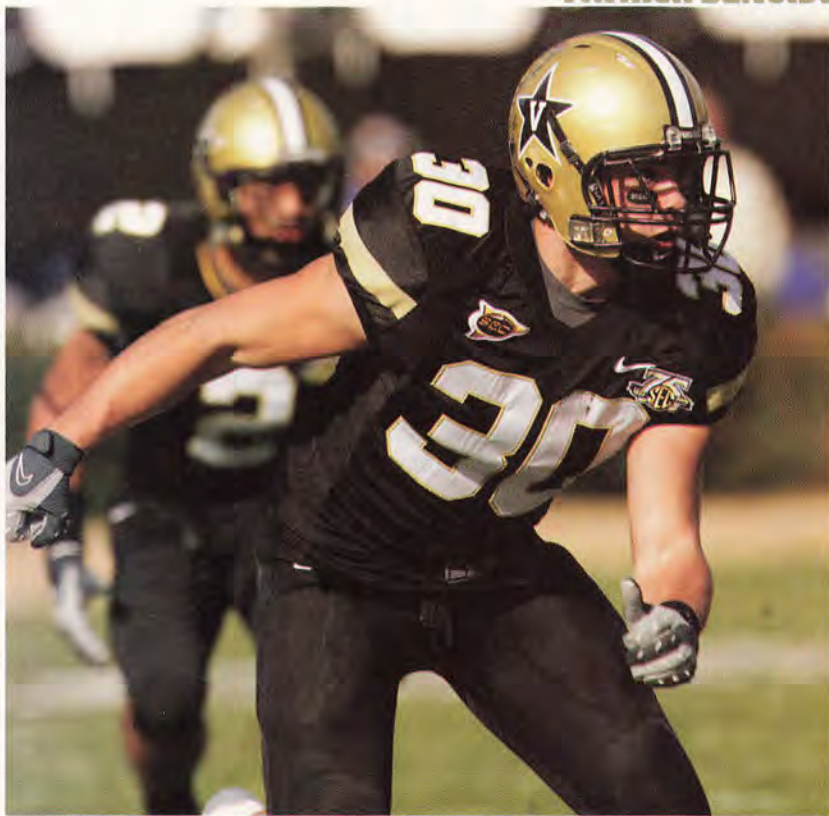
Interceptions: D.J. Moore, 6

Returning Players in Bold

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Commodores should field the school's best defensive backfield since the mid-1990s, when three future NFL players — cornerbacks Fred Vinson and Corey Chavous and safety Eric Vance — roamed the secondary for the black and gold. The 2008 unit features four returning starters, highlighted by Moore, a first-team All-SEC pick as a sophomore. "D.J. just knows how to play the game," Johnson says. "He knows the scheme very well, and he knows what the offense is trying to do." Moore will be joined by fellow cornerback Myron Lewis and safeties Reshard Langford and Ryan Hamilton. Add in playmaking nickel back Darlron Spead (if healthy), and you have the makings of a quality secondary. "They are an extremely confident group," Johnson says. "Our corners are solid, and we have solid backups. It's a good group."

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Bryant Hahnfeldt struggled through a disappointing junior season. He converted only 13-of-20 kicks and has made 21-of-37 over the past two seasons. He missed a 49-yard field goal in the final minute of a 25-24 loss at Tennessee. Incoming freshman Ryan Fowler will have a chance to win the job. Vanderbilt ranked last in the SEC in net punting (32.8 per), but Johnson was pleased with Brett Upson's work. He averaged 39.2 yards on his 61 attempts and downed 22 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Moore figures to be one of the top kickoff return threats in the league.

PATRICK BENOIST



SCOUTING THE COMMODORES

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP VANDERBILT "Bobby Johnson has done a tremendous job coaching that program. They proved they were capable of beating anybody last season. They were one play away from beating Georgia and one play away from beating Tennessee. ... They are well-coached and give people fits at times but lack the confidence to get over the top. We do think their personnel had gotten much better over the past few seasons. They have some very good players — just look at the NFL Draft. They are getting players drafted every year. ... They will have some issues on offense this year. Losing (Earl) Bennett is tough. He was really good, and he took so much of the defense's attention. Now, do they really have anyone that scares you? Not that I see. ... It will be interesting to see what happens at quarterback this year. (Chris) Nickson has a lot of talent, but he didn't get the job done last year. I know he was injured, but he just didn't get the job done. ... The defense was pretty good last year. The secondary will be good. That (D.J.) Moore is a good player. Great nose for the ball."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

The good and the bad Broderick Stewart was a key figure on the Commodores' defense last fall. The lanky defensive end was credited with six sacks and was responsible for countless other quarterback hurries. But Stewart was the guilty party on the costliest penalty of the season for Vanderbilt. With the Commodores leading Tennessee 24-9 late in the third quarter in Knoxville, Stewart was flagged for a roughing the punter penalty. With new life, the Tennessee offense marched down the field to cut the lead to 24-16. The rest is history. The Vols went on to win 25-24 after VU's Bryant Hahnfeldt's 49-yard field goal grazed off the upright in the closing seconds.

Getting defensive Vanderbilt made a huge jump in the national rankings on defense last year, improving from 74th in 2006 to 16th in '07. The Commodores' 325.3-yard average was the school's best since the 1999 club allowed 315.5 yards per game.

Name recognition The Commodores have had two first-round draft picks in the past three seasons — quarterback Jay Cutler (2006) and offensive tackle Chris Williams (2008). Coach Bobby Johnson says the notoriety has boosted the Commodores' recruiting efforts. "It's huge," he says. "Every time Vanderbilt's name gets out there, it helps, especially when we had a hand in developing a good player. People know you can come here and get better and you can come here and be a first-round draft pick."

Special play Johnson was pleased with the overall performance of Vanderbilt's special teams, though he was disappointed in some of the big plays allowed by the coverage teams. "We had four bad plays on the punt team," he says. "We downed a lot inside the 20 and covered well for the most part. But we had four plays that just killed us." Johnson and his staff will attempt to keep more starters on the special teams units. "We use a lot of starters, but sometimes the guys don't think it's as important. They will get out there then call for their substitute and we will relent, put a sub in there, then the next thing you know there is a big play."

Washington sidelined Alex Washington was expected to be in the mix for a starting wide receiver spot, but the junior tore his ACL in the spring. Washington caught only nine passes last season, but eight (for 108 yards) came in the final two games. He also served as the primary punt returner and handled some kickoff return duties.

Benoist: Mike Maczoff Jr.

2008 SIGNEES

Defense was the focus for Vanderbilt, which signed seven defensive linemen, three linebackers and four defensive backs in the 21-player class. The staff has high hopes for Taylor Loftley, a defensive end from Georgia who spurned offers from South Carolina and Stanford. DeAndre Jones became the third linebacker from Memphis to sign with Vanderbilt in the past three seasons, joining Chris Marve and former MUS teammate John Stokes in Nashville. Jones also had offers from Kentucky, Stanford and Michigan State. Texas native Al Owens, a safety, could be the best of the four defensive back prospects. He chose Vanderbilt over Purdue, Missouri and Colorado.

Vanderbilt signed only two skill-position players, wide receivers John Cole and Akeem Dunham. Cole, the all-time leader in career receiving yardage in Kentucky, will have a chance to play right away.

Placekicker Ryan Fowler will be expected to challenge three-year starter Bryant Hahnfeldt, who has struggled the past two seasons.

Staying local is always a focus for Bobby Johnson and his staff, but the Dores inked only two native Tennesseans this year — Jones from Memphis and offensive lineman Michael Bryant from nearby La Vergne.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION	BY STATE
Defensive Linemen.....7	Florida 4
Defensive Backs.....4	Georgia.....4
Linebackers 3	Alabama 3
Offensive Linemen 3	Tennessee 2
Wide Receivers 2	Texas 2
Athletes 1	Kentucky.....1
Kickers 1	Pennsylvania 1
	Missouri 1
	Utah 1
	Illinois.....1
	South Carolina 1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

JOHN COLE • WR • SOMERSET, KY

It doesn't take long for Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson to describe what he likes best about incoming freshman John Cole.

"He can catch the ball," Johnson says. That's a good thing, since Cole is a wide receiver. What Johnson really means is that Cole catches a lot of balls. In fact, Cole caught 237 passes during his career at Somerset (Ky.) High School and set the state record for yards in a season (1,896), touchdowns in a season (28), career yards (5,031) and career touchdowns (69). "He has all the tools," Johnson says. "He is fast and he has good hands, but what we really like is that he has seen it all. He played in an offense that threw the ball all over the place. He will understand some of the things we ask him to do right away."

Cole committed to Vanderbilt in late August but looked around a bit when Johnson flirted with the Duke coaching job in December. After considering an offer from Stanford, Cole pledged his allegiance to the Commodores prior to Signing Day.

"John is a smart kid and he had some good choices," Johnson says. "We didn't try to put a lot of pressure on him. We said, 'Hey, we want you to come to Vanderbilt because you want to come.' He is really solid with his decision, and we are glad he is coming."

Cole should have an opportunity to play his way into the receiver rotation in the fall. Not only did the Commodores lose Earl Bennett to the NFL Draft, but junior Alex Washington was also lost for the season with a torn ACL in the spring. Cole figures to battle Clemson transfer Andrew Diomande and redshirt freshmen Jamie Graham and Udom Umoh for the No. 4 receiver spot.

ARCHIE BARNES ATH 6'4" 210 TAMPA, FL

Rushed for over 1,000 yards while playing quarterback in '07. Also played linebacker and safety. Son of Air Force colonel, family relocated from Germany.

MICHAEL BRYANT OL 6'4" 294 LA VERGNE, TN
Named first-team All-Area by *Murfreesboro Daily News Journal*.

JOHN BURROW DE 6'4" 222 MORRIS, AL
Named two-time North Jefferson County Defensive Player of the Year. Registered 138 total tackles, nine sacks, six forced fumbles, one INT and two defensive TDs as a senior. Father, Mike, was an All-SEC offensive lineman at Auburn and was drafted by the NFL's Buffalo Bills.

RICHARD CAGLE OL 6'4" 272 HOUSTON, TX
Top blocker on back-to-back TAPPS 6A state championship teams at St. Pius X.

JOHN COLE WR 5'11" 170 SOMERSET, KY
Named Kentucky Gatorade Player of the Year and first-team Class 3A All-State by the *Louisville Courier-Journal* in '07. Set state receiving records with 1,896 yards and 28 TDs as a junior as well as 5,031 yards and 69 TDs during his career. Had 1,623 receiving yards and 23 TDs as a senior, after record-breaking junior year.

DEXTER DANIELS LB 6'1" 210 BRANTLEY, AL
Named Class 1A Lineman of the Year by ASWA in '07. Recorded 114 tackles and 15 sacks as a senior; 93 tackles and six sacks as a junior.

AKEEM DUNHAM WR 6'3" 180 EUSTIS, FL
Named second-team Class 3A All-State by *Orlando Sentinel* as a senior. Recorded 610 receiving yards and eight TDs on offense; four INTs on defense; one punt return TD on special teams in '07.

RYAN FOWLER K 5'10" 160 TAYLORS, SC
Named Class 3A All-State by the AP as a senior. Participated in Shrine Bowl.

CASEY HAYWARD DB 6'0" 178 ELKO, GA
Named Houston County Athlete of the Year and Region 4-AAA Offensive Player of the Year in '07. Passed for 1,300 yards and 18 TDs; rushed for 1,284 yards and 18 TDs; had four INTs, returning three for TDs, as a senior.

JOSH JELESKY DE 6'5" 234 NAPERVILLE, IL
Recorded 83 tackles, four sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior.

DEANDRE JONES LB 6'0" 220 MEMPHIS, TN
Registered 21.5 tackles for a loss, eight sacks, two forced fumbles and one INT as a senior. Finalist for Division II-AA Mr. Football Lineman of the Year in '07.

TAYLOR LOFTLEY DE 6'2" 250 CHAMBLEE, GA
Had nine tackles for a loss, four sacks, two forced fumbles and one INT in '07.

ROB LOHR DL 6'4" 245 PHOENIXVILLE, PA
Named Pioneer Conference Defensive Player of the Year and All-Southeastern Pennsylvania team by *Philadelphia Inquirer* in '07. Had 15 sacks as a senior.

COLT NICHTER DT 6'2" 275 PARK CITY, UT
Named first-team Class 3A All-State as defensive lineman by *Salt Lake Tribune* in '06 and first-team all-state as offensive lineman by *Desert Morning News* in '07.

AL OWENS DB 6'2" 198 SPRINGTOWN, TX
Named third-team Class 4A All-State as a senior. Also ran track.

MICAH POWELL DB 6'0" 192 TARPON SPRINGS, FL
Named first-team All-Pinellas County by *St. Petersburg Times* as a senior.

SEAN RICHARDSON DB 6'2" 180 LINDEN, AL
Registered 101 tackles, three INTs and three forced fumbles as a senior.

RYAN SEYMOUR DL 6'4" 250 KINGSLAND, GA
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by GSWA as a senior.

TRISTAN STRONG LB 6'1" 220 LOGANVILLE, GA
Named first-team Class 5A All-State and All-Gwinnett County as a senior.

JOHNELL THOMAS DL 6'2" 240 ORLANDO, FL
Recorded 115 tackles, five sacks, three forced fumbles and two blocked punts as a senior member of Boone HS team that was 14-0 before losing to nation's No. 1 ranked team, Miami's Northwestern HS, in Class 6A state title game.

CALEB WELCHANS OL 6'5" 265 WILDWOOD, MO
Named first-team All-Metro by *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as a senior.

NATIONAL
FORECAST

30

CRIMSON TIDE



SEC WEST
PREDICTION

3

ALABAMA
crimson tide

148

HEAD COACH: NICK SABAN RECORD AT SCHOOL: 7-6 (1 YEAR) CAREER RECORD: 98-48-1 (12 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JIM MCELWAIN DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: KIRBY SMART

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. BRYANT-DENNY STADIUM (92,138)

With Nick Saban it's always about "the process." That term was written in big capital letters on the front of Alabama's 2007 media guide, which boldly stated "The Process Begins." Well, the process began with a season that saw Alabama go 7-6 and lose four of its last five games.

There were suspensions of five players for four games for an "impermissible receipt of textbooks," late-game heroics in a win against Arkansas and big-time blunders in losses to LSU, Mississippi State and Louisiana-Monroe. But the beginning of the process had more to do with what happened in the offseason, when Alabama landed what many deemed was the top recruiting class in the country. As the Crimson Tide head into the 2008 season, the storyline will concern how these newcomers blend in with the returnees. It's tough to say how many of the freshmen will play, but expect them to contribute early and often, especially on defense, where Alabama returns six starters.

"From a talent standpoint, that's something we have to continue to build because you need talented players," Saban says. "We have some very good players, but we certainly need more of them to be a dominant team in the SEC, there's no doubt about that."

With 10 starters returning on offense, the Tide will probably have to outscore most of its opponents. It's a strange concept for a team with a defensive-minded coach like Saban, and tough for a group that ranked No. 75 in total offense in 2007. Now, with its third offensive coordinator in three years in Jim McElwain, hired from Fresno State in the offseason, Alabama will have to mesh with a different style once again.

QUARTERBACKS John Parker Wilson holds the top two spots in Alabama school history for both passing yards in a season (2,846 in 2007 and 2,707 in '06) and touchdowns in a season (18 in 2007 and 17 in '06) and as a senior, Wilson's numbers should improve across the board. But for some reason the 6'2", 213-pound Wilson's status as starter remains somewhat up in the air. He has started every game for the Tide over the last two years, but in 2007 he made several costly turnovers in key games — a fumble against LSU late in the fourth quarter that set up the Tigers' winning touchdown, and a 100-yard interception return against Mississippi State. Wilson finished 92nd in the country in passing efficiency. He had the most consistent spring out of the returning quarterbacks, and unless incoming freshman Star Jackson can unseat him, Wilson will be the opening-day starter. In yet another new offense, Wilson hasn't had the time to feel comfortable as a starter, but in 2008 he better learn quickly.

RUNNING BACKS This is an area of strength for Alabama as the Tide return a trio of strong runners. Terry Grant, a 5'10", 188-pound sophomore, is more of a speed back. He began 2007 as the starter. Through three games, Grant was second in the SEC in rushing yards per game at 134.3, before the rough-and-tumble play of the conference took a toll on his body. Grant suffered a sports hernia midway through the season and did not have a carry in the final two games, finishing with 891 yards rushing. Grant had offseason surgery to correct the problem and appeared healthy in the spring. Both 6'2", 197-pound Glen Coffee and 6'0", 192-pound Roy Upchurch are more hybrid power/speed backs with similar skill sets. Coffee unseated Grant at the end of the season as the starter and will have an opportunity to win the No. 1 spot in preseason camp. He and Upchurch carried a bulk of the load in Alabama's final two games.

RECEIVERS Forget the returning players — the talk around the program has to do with Julio Jones, an incoming freshman. Jones was among the most coveted recruits in the nation last year, regardless of position. Lined up across from Jones will be returning starter Mike McCoy, who grabbed 28 balls for 207 yards in 2007. Nikita Stover started three of Alabama's last four games and caught more passes than McCoy in Alabama's final three games. Stover could begin the year as a starter while Jones acclimates himself to college football.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Some of the best news Alabama could have received in the offseason came when versatile lineman Antoine Caldwell announced that he would return for his senior year. While junior left tackle Andre Smith might be

6 Auburn has defeated Alabama in six consecutive games, the longest losing streak for the Tide in the history of the Iron Bowl.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE CRIMSON TIDE

For Alabama, the 2008 season can go one of two ways. The Tide can either have a really good year, or a really bad one. The route Alabama takes pretty much depends on how much the freshmen contribute. Judging by the large number of players changing positions in the spring, the personnel returning from the Tide's 2007 roster won't provide a lot of depth. This could be why Nick Saban scheduled a couple of opponents from non-BCS conferences early. After the season-opener against Clemson, the Tide have back-to-back home games against Tulane and Western Kentucky. Winning those two games could give the Tide some desperately needed confidence before they head to Arkansas and Georgia in back-to-back weeks. Along with the freshmen, those two games could help quarterback John Parker Wilson, who had a topsy-turvy 2007. Saban says that the offense, now under the direction of coordinator Jim McElwain, will have about 30 percent new terminology, and it's a sure bet that by the third game, Alabama still won't have all the kinks figured out. If the freshmen end that stretch with a better feel for the college game and if Wilson can grasp the offense, then Alabama could have a decent year. If not, it could be a tough season for "the process."



TERRY GRANT

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	#Clemson	L
S. 6	Tulane	W
S. 13	Western Kentucky	W
S. 20	at Arkansas	W
S. 27	at Georgia	L
O. 4	Kentucky	W
O. 18	Ole Miss	W
O. 25	at Tennessee	L
N. 1	Arkansas State	W
N. 8	at LSU	L
N. 15	Mississippi State	*
N. 29	Auburn	L
	#Atlanta, GA	

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Parker Wilson/Kristina Grant/Tim Clark/Althon Sports

A full-page action photograph of John Parker Wilson, a quarterback for the University of Alabama. He is wearing a crimson jersey with the number 14 on his helmet and white pants. He is running with the football, looking down at it. The jersey features a SEC patch and a Nike logo. He has white wristbands and a white arm brace on his left arm. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

**JOHN
PARKER WILSON**

ALABAMA QB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (10)

WR	80 Mike McCoy (Jr.)	9 Nikita Stover (Sr.)
WR	Julio Jones (Fr.)	15 Darius Hanks (Fr.)
LT	71 Andre Smith (Jr.)	77 Charles Hoke (Sr.)
LG	78 Mike Johnson (Jr.)	74 David Ross (So.)
C	59 Antoine Caldwell (Sr.)	70 Evan Cardwell (Jr.)
RG	76 Marlon Davis (Sr.)	73 William Vlachos (So.)
RT	79 Drew Davis (Jr.)	Tyler Love (Fr.)
TE	83 Travis McCall (Sr.)	85 Preston Dial (So.)
TE	88 Nick Walker (Sr.)	87 Chris Underwood (Fr.)
QB	14 John Parker Wilson (Sr.)	12 Greg McElroy (So.)
RB	29 Terry Grant (So.)	38 Glen Coffee (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE	93 Bobby Greenwood (Sr.)	52 Alfred McCullough (Fr.)
NT	97 Lorenzo Washington (Jr.)	66 Brian Motley (So.)
DE	95 Brandon Deaderick (Jr.)	96 Luther Davis (So.)
OLB	98 Brandon Fanney (Jr.)	Don'Ta Hightower (Fr.)
ILB	Jerrell Harris (Fr.)	13 Cory Reamer (Jr.)
MLB	25 Rolando McClain (So.)	21 Prince Hall (Jr.)
OLB	10 Jimmy Johns (Sr.)	47 Ezekial Knight (Sr.)
CB	28 Javier Arenas (Jr.)	24 Marquis Johnson (Jr.)
CB	3 Kareem Jackson (So.)	8 Chris Rogers (Jr.)
SS	49 Rashad Johnson (Sr.)	Alonzo Lawrence (Fr.)
FS	27 Justin Woodall (Jr.)	Robert Lester (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	99 Leigh Tiffin (Jr.)	KR	28 Javier Arenas (Jr.)
P	97 P.J. Fitzgerald (Jr.)	PR	28 Javier Arenas (Jr.)

ROLANDO MCCLAIN



the best pro prospect on the line, Caldwell's versatility — he has started at center, left guard and right guard — is probably more valuable to the unit. Left guard Mike Johnson and right guard Marlon Davis are stalwarts from last year's unit, but an interesting battle could take place at right tackle. During the spring, Drew Davis and Taylor Pharr competed for the starting spot with Davis getting the starting nod at the spring scrimmage. But 6'7", 290-pound true freshman Tyler Love could come in and grab hold of that role. Love, a product of Mountain Brook (Ala.) High School, was ranked as a five-star recruit by both Rivals.com and Scout.com.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The line lost one key player — end Wallace Gilberry, whose 10 sacks and 27 tackles for a loss will be tough to replace — but this is the only area of the defense that has some level of consistency returning. That task falls on the shoulders of ends Bobby Greenwood and Brandon Deaderick. They combined for three sacks and 7.5 tackles for a loss in 2007. While Greenwood, Deaderick and nosetackle Lorenzo Washington make up Alabama's starting front, don't be surprised if one of the younger players emerges in the fall. Redshirt freshman end Alfred McCullough won the Most Valuable Lineman award at the spring scrimmage. Also, Josh Chapman and Luther Davis, both sophomores, were highly touted recruits coming into Alabama who have yet to make an impact.

LINEBACKERS During the spring, Saban often discussed his newest linebacker Jimmy Johns. The former running back had moved to inside linebacker during bowl practice, and then to starting outside linebacker in the spring. This was the first sign of depth issues. At the end of the Independence Bowl, the linebacker position didn't appear to have any problems. Only two starters needed to be replaced. Then outside linebacker Ezekial Knight suffered an unspecified heart ailment, which left his status for 2008 up in the air, and inside/middle linebacker Prince Hall, a 2007 preseason second team All-SEC selection, was suspended for the spring for a violation of team rules. Now, Alabama has only one starter definitely returning, sophomore middle linebacker Rolando McClain. Expect Saban to use his freshmen to plug up some of these holes. Jerrell Harris from Gadsden City (Ala.) High School was a big-time recruit who could start right away if the depth issues continue.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Alabama has some playmakers at this position, but a few new faces. During the spring, Javier Arenas, a former safety, moved to cornerback. Gen-

KEY PLAYERS

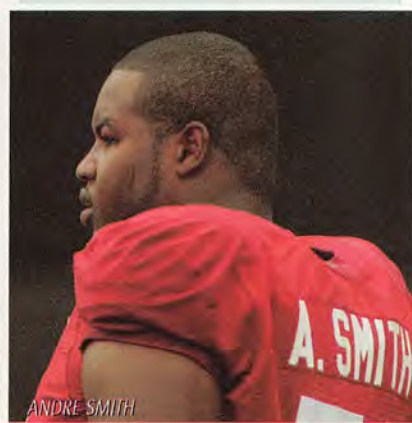
John Parker Wilson, QB Senior quarterback holds Alabama's single-season passing records for yards and touchdowns.

Andre Smith, LT Shared the Jacobs Trophy as the top offensive lineman in the SEC.

Antoine Caldwell, OL Last season, he started at three different positions on the offensive line.

Rashad Johnson, S Co-captain tied for the SEC lead with six interceptions in 2007.

Rolando McClain, LB Recorded 15 tackles against Auburn and was a unanimous pick for freshman All-SEC.



KEY LOSSES

DJ Hall, WR Holds both the career reception and career receiving yardage marks at Bama.

Wallace Gilberry, DE Six of his 10 sacks came in the last five games.

Simeon Castille, CB Two-year starter often found himself matched up against opposing team's top receiver.

Darren Mustin, LB Former walk-on turned captain finished tied for second on the team with 80 tackles.

Matt Caddell, WR Steady wide receiver had the game-winning catch against Arkansas.

RISEING STAR

Throughout the spring, **Darius Hanks'** name kept popping up as a player who had improved immensely. And with Alabama losing three stalwarts at wide receiver in DJ Hall, Keith Brown, and Matt Caddell, Hanks, a redshirt freshman, could contribute as a third wideout.



Smith: Tim Clark/Alton Sports; McClain: Al Kiositra



2008 ALABAMA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
6	Bryant, Patrick	6-3/208	Fr.	Pensacola, FL		
16	Darrah, Thomas	6-5/190	Fr.	Newnan, GA		
8	Ezell, Robert	5-9/163	Fr.	Athens, AL		
18	Fanuzzi, Nick	6-3/201	So.	San Antonio, TX		
17	Jackson, Alex	5-11/190	Jr.	Marietta, GA		
12	McElroy, Greg	6-3/218	So.	Southlake, TX		
14	Wilson, John Parker	6-2/213	Sr.	Hoover, AL		
RUNNING BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
38	Coffee, Glen	6-2/197	Jr.	Ft. Walton Beach, FL		
6	Goode, Demetrius	5-10/197	Fr.	LaGrange, GA		
29	Grant, Terry	5-10/188	So.	Lumberton, MS		
34	Griffin, Jeramie	6-0/225	Fr.	Batesville, MS		
33	Hanrahan, Patrick	6-0/232	Sr.	Springville, AL		
40	Huber, Baron	6-3/242	Jr.	Knoxville, TN		
30	Lowe, Jonathan	5-7/184	Sr.	Phenix City, AL		
41	Powell, Brandon	6-2/221	Sr.	Grove Hill, AL		
5	Upchurch, Roy	6-0/192	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL		
44	Vane, Jacob	6-1/232	So.	Oak Ridge, TN		
RECEIVERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
82	Alexander, Earl	6-5/210	So.	Phenix City, AL		
11	Gibson, Brandon	6-1/192	Fr.	Mobile, AL		
15	Hanks, Darius	6-0/190	Fr.	Norcross, GA		
86	Jackson, Chris	6-1/190	Fr.	McDonough, GA		
4	Maze, Marquis	5-9/167	Fr.	Tarrant, AL		
80	McCoy, Mike	6-3/199	Jr.	Rankin, MS		
7	Oakley, Will	6-1/196	Sr.	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL		
46	Pennington, Kyle	5-11/170	Fr.	Chatham, AL		
48	Sikes, Travis	6-2/194	So.	Nashville, TN		
9	Stover, Nikita	6-0/207	Sr.	Hartselle, AL		
39	Taylor, Melvin	6-0/170	Fr.	Meridian, MS		
43	Walker, A.J.	6-1/185	Fr.	Huntsville, AL		
TIGHT ENDS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
93	Cummings, Drew	6-5/216	Fr.	Huntington, WV		
85	Dial, Preston	6-3/223	So.	Mobile, AL		
92	Fraye, Patrick	6-2/240	Fr.	Daphne, AL		
83	McCall, Travis	6-2/261	Sr.	Prattville, AL		
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
59	Caldwell, Antoine	6-3/292	Sr.	Montgomery, AL		
70	Cardwell, Evan	6-2/278	Jr.	Killen, AL		
69	Crump, Patrick	6-3/267	Fr.	Hoover, AL		
79	Davis, Drew	6-7/276	Jr.	Evergreen, AL		
76	Davis, Marlon	6-4/290	Sr.	Columbus, GA		
60	Deaton, Scott	6-6/286	Jr.	Birmingham, AL		
54	Garnier, Juan	6-4/315	Jr.	Everett, MA		
77	Hoke, Charles	6-7/253	Sr.	Birmingham, AL		
78	Johnson, Mike	6-6/298	Jr.	Pensacola, FL		
68	Pharr, Taylor	6-6/281	So.	Irondale, AL		
74	Ross, David	6-4/297	So.	Homewood, AL		
71	Smith, Andre	6-5/340	Jr.	Birmingham, AL		
73	Vlachos, William	6-1/295	So.	Birmingham, AL		
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
99	Chapman, Josh	6-1/300	So.	Hoover, AL		
96	Davis, Luther	6-4/275	So.	West Monroe, LA		
95	Deaderick, Brandon	6-4/286	Jr.	Elizabethtown, KY		
58	Gentry, Nick	6-3/263	So.	Prattville, AL		
93	Greenwood, Bobby	6-5/267	Sr.	Prattville, AL		
52	McCullough, Alfred	6-2/317	Fr.	Athens, AL		
66	Motley, Brian	6-2/280	So.	Autaugaville, AL		
57	Pounds, Brad	6-3/280	Sr.	Boaz, AL		
90	Talbert, Milton	6-3/252	So.	Hattiesburg, MS		
97	Washington, Lorenzo	6-4/283	Jr.	Logansville, GA		
LINEBACKERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
32	Anders, Eryk	6-2/225	Jr.	San Antonio, TX		
59	Benson, Alex	6-1/210	So.	Trussville, AL		
87	Bullard, Drew	6-3/241	Fr.	Florence, AL		
51	DeJohn, Michael	6-0/220	Fr.	Hoover, AL		
98	Fanney, Brandon	6-4/241	Jr.	Morristown, TN		
21	Hall, Prince	5-11/235	Jr.	Moreno Valley, CA		
42	Hester, Jennings	6-2/224	Fr.	Atlanta, GA		
45	Higgenbotham, Charlie	6-1/211	So.	Birmingham, AL		
DEFENSIVE BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
28	Arenas, Javier	5-9/193	Jr.	Tampa, FL		
37	Ballou, T.J.	6-0/176	Fr.	Meridian, MS		
43	Burnthall, Sam	6-2/185	Jr.	Decatur, AL		
19	Farmer, Tarence	6-0/195	Fr.	Houston, TX		
33	Gray, Hampton	6-1/188	So.	Northport, AL		
15	Holt, Mark	6-0/173	Fr.	Muscle Shoals, AL		
3	Jackson, Kareem	5-11/185	So.	Macon, GA		
24	Johnson, Marquis	5-11/186	Jr.	Sarasota, FL		
49	Johnson, Rashad	6-0/187	Sr.	Sulligent, AL		
39	King, Tyrone	5-11/204	Jr.	Birmingham, AL		
22	Lockett, Beryele	6-1/190	Fr.	Tuscaloosa, AL		
16	Mitchell, Lionel	6-2/182	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA		
30	Phillips, Stanley	6-0/185	Fr.	Montgomery, AL		
8	Rogers, Chris	6-0/192	Jr.	Lakeland, FL		
20	Scott, Chris	5-11/175	So.	Birmingham, AL		
26	Sharrief, Ali	5-9/197	Jr.	Stevenson, AL		
27	Woodall, Justin	6-2/224	Jr.	Oxford, MS		
SPECIALISTS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
97	Fitzgerald, P.J. (P)	5-11/194	Jr.	Coral Springs, FL		
81	Friedman, Andrew (K)	6-1/210	Jr.	Fairhope, AL		
95	Gallagher, Colin (K)	6-0/180	Fr.	Atlanta, GA		
67	Selman, Brian (LS)	6-0/218	Sr.	Vestavia Hills, AL		
53	Silvey, Paul (LS)	5-11/215	Fr.	Prattville, AL		
44	Smith, Corey (K/P)	6-0/195	Fr.	Bunker Hill, WV		
45	Snider, Sam (P)	5-10/163	Fr.	Norcross, GA		
98	Thomas, Heath (P)	6-3/213	Jr.	Montgomery, AL		
99	Tiffin, Leigh (K)	6-1/198	Jr.	Muscle Shoals, AL		
56	Whitfield, Spencer (LS)	6-2/227	Fr.	Leeds, AL		

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 7-6 (4-4 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Western Carolina	W	52-6	92,138
S. 8	at Vanderbilt	W	24-10	39,773
S. 15	Arkansas	W	41-38	92,138
S. 22	Georgia	L	(ot) 26-23	92,138
S. 29	at Florida State	L	21-14	85,412
O. 6	Houston	W	30-24	92,138
O. 13	at Ole Miss	W	27-24	59,791
O. 20	Tennessee	W	41-17	92,138
N. 3	LSU	L	41-34	92,138
N. 10	at Mississippi State	L	17-12	56,188
N. 17	Louisiana-Monroe	L	21-14	92,138
N. 24	at Auburn	L	17-10	87,451
D. 30	#Colorado	W	30-24	47,043

#Independence Bowl

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
John Parker Wilson	462	255	2,846	18	12
Greg McElroy	9	8	73	1	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Terry Grant	180	891	4.9	8	
Glen Coffee	129	545	4.2	4	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
DJ Hall	67	1,005	15.0	6	
Matt Caddell	40	475	11.9	2	
Mike McCoy	28	207	7.4	1	
Terry Grant	26	176	6.8	1	

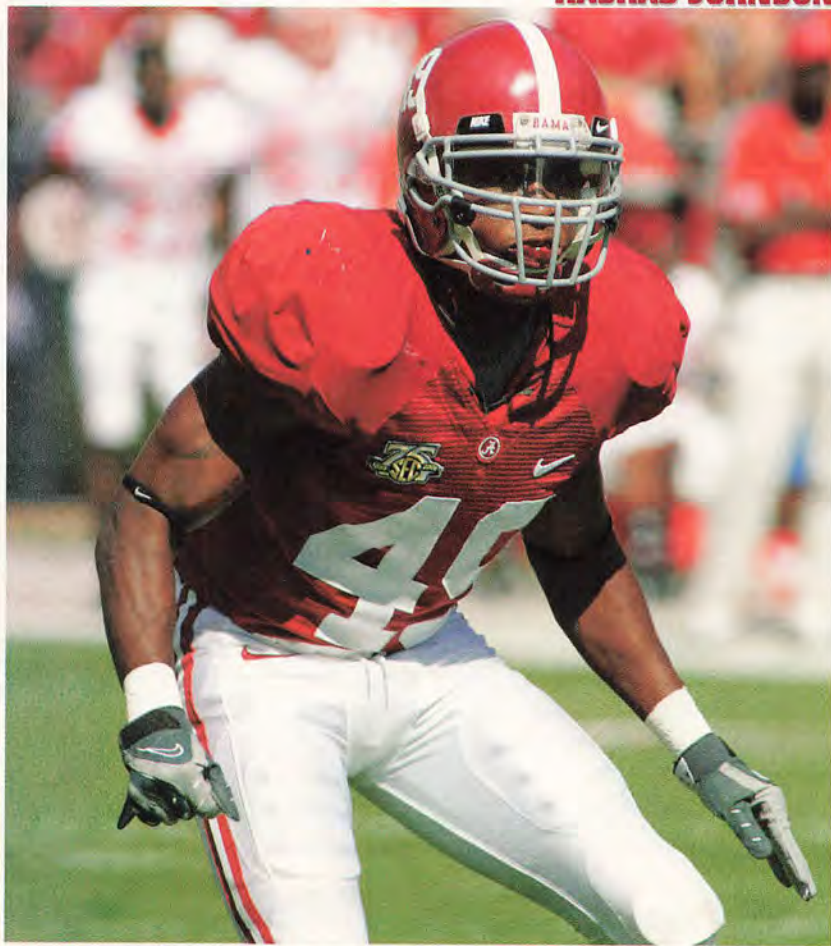
Kicking: Leigh Tiffin, 25-34 FGs, 36-36 XPs, 111 points
 Tackles: Rashad Johnson, 94; Wallace Gilberry, 80
 Sacks: Wallace Gilberry, 10
 Interceptions: Rashad Johnson, 6

Returning Players in Bold

crouching listed at 5'9", Arenas could have trouble with some of the bigger SEC receivers. Fortunately for Saban, he has safety Rashad Johnson back there to clean up any coverage mess in front of him. In 2007, Johnson, a former walk-on running back, always found himself in the right spot at the right time. He led the team with six interceptions. Justin Woodall, a 6'2", 224-pound safety who was drafted in the 19th round of the 2006 baseball draft as a pitcher by the New York Mets, should see more action as well and could begin the year as a starter at safety.

SPECIALISTS Until junior kicker Leigh Tiffin graduates, he will be the feel-good story of the Alabama football team. His father, a former kicker at Alabama, booted the game-winning kick against Auburn in the 1985 Iron Bowl. In 2007, Tiffin set Alabama's record for points in a season with 111 and was 8-for-13 on kicks in between 40 and 49 yards. Arenas proved to be more than capable as a return specialist, finishing seventh in the country with 15.4 yards per punt return.

RASHAD JOHNSON



SCOUTING THE TIDE

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ALABAMA "The one defensive coordinator back (in the West) is Kevin Steele at Alabama. They do a nice job every year. They give you different NFL wrinkles and bring the safeties down. They blitz a lot, and they don't just come from the outside. They come from all over. ... The Crimson Tide will only get better. Last year was the first year they learned how they want to play. Now they know more about their strengths and weaknesses, and they had a great recruiting class with impact players. Saban's defenses attack. They're going to overload you to one side or the other with pressure. ... They are going to have so many good young players on that roster because of how well they recruited this past year. It will be interesting to see how many get on the field. ... (Julio) Jones will play. That guy is a great player. One of the best receivers we saw last year in high school. ... John Parker Wilson is a good competitor, but he didn't take a big jump from his sophomore to his junior season. They will need him to be more consistent this time around."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Talk about a clinic When you hire a rock star coach, sometimes he brings his entourage with him. During the spring, Saban held a coaching clinic for over 1,000 high school coaches throughout the state of Alabama and the surrounding area. And they all received advice from such luminaries as New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, Virginia coach Al Groh and Patriots defensive coordinator Dean Pees. Not a bad lineup if you want to learn a few new defensive schemes.

Saban credits fans Alabama's 2008 A-Day spring scrimmage game disappointed some Tide fans as it "only" drew an estimated 78,200 people. Talk about a drop-off from the year before, when 92,138 packed Bryant-Denny. Still, Saban has always been quick to credit that game as a major reason for the Tide's ability to land its top-ranked recruiting class. "Our fans need to know what they did last year in their demonstration of support had significant impact on the recruiting class that we had," Saban says. "The Sabans certainly appreciate it. It was the first time I had the opportunity to see our fan base." The fans who were at this year's spring game had to enjoy the upgraded passing attack on display. Quarterback John Parker Wilson threw for 265 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Crimson team over the White, 24-14.

Caldwell back for more Normally when an underclassman dresses up in a jacket and tie and calls a news conference, the expectation is that he will declare for the NFL Draft. Offensive lineman Antoine Caldwell broke that trend. Caldwell called a news conference and put on his Sunday best but announced that he would stay at Alabama for one more year. This is good news for the Tide, as Caldwell started at center, left guard and right guard in 2007. He also has some experience at right tackle.

Finishing with Coach McElwain The word "finish" has been closely associated with Saban. He has emphasized this concept to the players during almost every practice more than anyone on staff. That was until Alabama hired Jim McElwain as its offensive coordinator. McElwain replaced Major Applewhite, who returned to Texas as the Longhorns' running backs coach. Saban mentioned that McElwain brings a level of "toughness" to the position. "He's intense. He's real intense," says Caldwell. "I don't think I've ever heard a coach talk so much about finishing as Coach McElwain."

Johnson: Al Woodstra

2008 SIGNEES

To say Alabama pulled in a bumper crop of recruits is putting it lightly. Alabama signed every one of its top targets, including the top 5 players in the state — according to Rivals.com — to land the No. 1-rated recruiting class in the country, according to Athlon, Scout.com and Rivals.com.

Helping Alabama's cause was one of the richest groups of in-state prospects in years, and the Tide made it their priority to land as many of those players as possible. Most important for Alabama, the Tide will bring in the top player in the state in Foley (Ala.) wide receiver Julio Jones. Along with Jones, the Tide addressed needs on the offensive line by getting Mountain Brook (Ala.) offensive lineman Tyler Love, who can step in immediately and play. Alabama also snatched up Prichard (Ala.) athlete Burton Scott, a five-star recruit according to Rivals.com, and Gadsden City (Ala.) High School linebacker Jerrell Harris, who, with Alabama's limited depth at linebacker, could also play right away.

The Tide also dipped into the talent pool out of state to land its quarterback of the future in Lake Worth (Fla.) product Star Jackson. Alabama also addressed its needs in the defensive backfield, and did it by getting

out-of-state talent. The Tide plucked cornerback Robby Green from LSU's stomping ground at John Curtis Christian School outside of New Orleans, and got defensive back Alonzo Lawrence from Lucedale, Miss. However, not all of these players will arrive at Tuscaloosa in time for fall camp. Alabama signed 32 players, and that number needs to be down to 25.

Still, most of the marquee players in Nick Saban's first major recruiting class at Alabama should contribute right away.



JULIO JONES

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Linemen.....	8
Receivers	6
Defensive Backs.....	5
Running Backs	4
Offensive Linemen	3
Linebackers	3
Quarterbacks	1
Athletes	1
Kickers	1

BY STATE

Alabama	19
Tennessee	3
Florida	2
Georgia.....	2
Mississippi	2
Louisiana	1
Michigan.....	1
Texas	1
West Virginia	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

JULIO JONES • WR • FOLEY, AL

The Saturday before Signing Day, Foley (Ala.) High School wide receiver Julio Jones came to an Alabama basketball game, and the Tide fans welcomed him with cheers of "Ju-li-o." This was a good omen, as a few days later, in a nationally televised ceremony, Jones put on the crimson cap and signed with the Tide.

Alabama benefited in its 2008 recruiting haul from an increased level of talent within its borders, and Jones is an example of that. At 6'4", 210 pounds, Jones has the perfect size for a receiver, and he has the speed and the moves to go with it.

He was considered the top player in the state by both Rivals.com and Scout.com, as well as the best receiver in the country. As a high school senior in 2007, Jones recorded 68 receptions for 1,181 yards and 16 touchdowns. He should blend in perfectly on a receiving corps that lost three seniors, including Alabama's all-time reception and yardage leader in DJ Hall.

MARK BARRON	DB	6'2"	215	MOBILE, AL
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by ASWA and MVP of '07 state title game.				
UNDRA BILLINGSLEY	DL	6'3"	275	BIRMINGHAM, AL
Ranked No. 20 strong-side defensive end in country by Rivals.com.				
DEVONTA BOLTON	TE/WR	6'4"	220	NORCROSS, GA
Ranked No. 8 prospect in Georgia and No. 18 athlete in nation by Rivals.com.				
JOHN MICHAEL BOSWELL	OL	6'5"	300	NORTHPORT, AL
Named Old Spice Red Zone Player of the Year in Alabama.				
TERRANCE CODY	DL	6'5"	380	PERKINSTON, MS
Gulf Coast (MS) CC transfer. Ranked No. 47 juco prospect by Rivals.com.				
MARCEL DAREUS	DL	6'3"	280	HUFFMAN, AL
Ranked No. 5 defensive tackle prospect in nation by Scout.com.				
ROBBY GREEN	DB	6'0"	180	RIVER RIDGE, LA
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Louisiana and No. 20 cornerback in country by Scout.com				
GLENN HARBIN	DL	6'6"	245	MOBILE, AL
Ranked No. 16 prospect in Alabama, No. 17 strong-side end in nation by Rivals.com				
JERRELL HARRIS	LB	6'3"	215	GADSDEN, AL
Named second-team EA Sports All-American. Had 145 tackles, 15 sacks in '07.				
DON'TA HIGHTOWER	LB	6'4"	250	LEWISBURG, TN
Named Class 3A Mr. Football by TSWA and Defensive MVP by the <i>Tennessean</i> .				
DESTIN HOOD	WR	6'1"	200	MOBILE, AL
Also top baseball prospect. Won 2007 AFLAC All-American Home Run Derby.				
MARK INGRAM	RB	5'10"	215	FLINT, MI
Ranked No. 6 in Michigan by Rivals.com. Father played for the New York Giants.				
CHRIS JACKSON	WR	6'1"	180	MCDONOUGH, GA
Named Class AAA Player of the Year by the AP. Had 23 TD catches as senior.				
STAR JACKSON	QB	6'3"	195	LAKE WORTH, FL
Third-team EA Sports All-American. Ranked No. 5 pro-style QB by Rivals.com.				
BARRETT JONES	OL	6'5"	280	MEMPHIS, TN
Ranked No. 1 prospect in Tennessee by SuperPrep.				
JULIO JONES	WR	6'4"	210	FOLEY, AL
Ranked No. 1 wide receiver in nation by Rivals.com and Scout.com.				
CHRIS JORDAN	RB	6'2"	220	BRENTWOOD, TN
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Tennessee by Rivals.com. Had 1,258 yards, 18 TDs in '07.				
ALONZO LAWRENCE	DB	6'1"	190	LUCEDALE, MS
First-team EA Sports All-American. Ranked No. 2 cornerback by Rivals.com.				
ROBERT LESTER	DB	6'2"	210	FOLEY, AL
Recorded 74 tackles, six INTs, two forced fumbles and two blocked punts in '07.				
BRANDON LEWIS	DL	6'3"	275	PLEASANT GROVE, AL
Ranked No. 14 strong-side defensive end in nation by Rivals.com.				
TYLER LOVE	OL	6'7"	290	MOUNTAIN BROOK, AL
Named Class 6A Lineman of the Year by ASWA.				
IVAN MATCHETT	RB	5'10"	215	MOBILE, AL
Rushed for 1,422 yards and 16 TDs as senior for 15-0 Class 5A state champs.				
KERRY MURPHY	DL	6'4"	315	HOOVER, AL
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 2 prospect in state in '06.				
WESLEY NEIGHBORS	DB	6'1"	200	HUNTSVILLE, AL
Father, Ray ('83-86), and grandfather, Billy ('58-61), played football at Bama.				
JERMAINE PREYEAR	RB	5'11"	205	MOBILE, AL
Ranked No. 5 fullback by ESPN, No. 20 running back in nation by Rivals.com.				
MELVIN RAY	WR	6'3"	195	TALLAHASSEE, FL
Named first-team Class 1A All-State by FSWA and first-team All-Big Bend in '07.				
B.J. SCOTT	WR	6'0"	195	PRICHARD, AL
Ranked No. 1 athlete in nation by ESPN, No. 2 prospect in state by Rivals.com.				
BRAD SMELLEY	ATH	6'3"	218	TUSCALOOSA, AL
Passed for 3,022 yards, 33 TDs in '07. Brother, Chris, is QB at South Carolina.				
COREY SMITH	K	6'0"	195	BUNKER HILL, WV
Ranked No. 12 kicker in nation by ESPN.com.				
DAMION SQUARE	DL	6'2"	290	HOUSTON, TX
Ranked No. 9 linebacker in country by Scout.com, No. 24 defensive end by ESPN.				
COURTNEY UPSHAW	LB	6'2"	230	EUFAULA, AL
Named Class 5A Lineman of the Year by ASWA. Ranked No. 4 end by ESPN.				
MICHAEL WILLIAMS	DE	6'6"	270	REFORM, AL
Named Class 2A Lineman of the Year by ASWA. Ranked No. 4 end by Rivals.com.				



HEAD COACH: BOBBY PETRINO **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** FIRST SEASON **CAREER RECORD:** 41-9 (4 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: PAUL PETRINO **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** WILLY ROBINSON
 FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM (72,000)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

55

RAZORBACKS



SEC WEST
PREDICTION

5

ARKANSAS
razorbacks

The Bobby Petrino Era at Arkansas begins with the promise of a new-fangled, electrifying offensive system, which has resonated with the parched patrons of Razorback football. Gone are the antics of the Darren McFadden-Felix Jones WildHog romping, running attack that brought the national spotlight to the Ozarks. The Petrino system will be much more comfortable calling and executing the forward pass, but it is committed to balance.

"The big thing we always do offensively is we call it FTS: Feed the Studs," says offensive coordinator Paul Petrino.

The big question with the FTS plan: Who are the studs?

Petrino and company inherited a roster of skill-position talent on offense that few fans outside the Natural State will recognize. Auditions for offensive touches cranked up during the Hogs' extra-physical spring drills and will carry through fall camp, when a signing class loaded with skill athletes will get its chance to compete.

Casey Dick returns at quarterback, and his forte has been game management, smooth handoffs, an occasional downfield block and the play-action pass — not triggering a precision, timing-based, all-quadrant attacking offense. He'll get offensive help from a deep, talented tight end crew that features Andrew Davie, D.J. Williams and Ben Cleveland, as well as a highly regarded offensive front, led by Rimington Trophy winner Jonathan Luigs at center and guard Mitch Petrus.

The leading rushers and receivers will come from a mix of mostly unproven returning players, like tailback Michael Smith and receivers London Crawford, Lucas Miller and Reggie Fish.

On defense, the built-in strength is the front of the 4-3 alignment under new coordinator Willy Robinson. Ends Adrian Davis and Antwain Robinson and tackles Ernest Mitchell and Malcolm Sheppard have all earned their SEC stripes, while Damario Ambrose and other younger players should benefit from more playing time.

QUARTERBACKS Dick has 22 starts under his belt, so he has the inside track on winning the No. 1 job. His accuracy rate of 57.3 percent must be improved for the Petrino system to function effectively. Last year, he threw for 1,695 yards with 18 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, with a high of 210 yards in a 66-7 win over North Texas. Only once in his three years at Arkansas has he topped the 200-yard mark against an SEC opponent — a 228-yard effort in a win at South Carolina in November 2006. The splashy transfer of Ryan Mallett from Michigan should bring benefits down the road, but he injured the thumb on his throwing hand in the second week of spring drills and did not seem likely to win his appeal to the NCAA for immediate eligibility. Junior Alex Mortensen and red-shirt freshman Nathan Dick, Casey's younger brother, will have to contend with signees Tyler Wilson and Jim Youngblood when fall camp commences.

RUNNING BACKS Smith is the heir apparent tailback, but at 5'7", 173 pounds, durability issues exist. He's a breakout threat who had an 81-yard score in relief duty last year. Two years ago, he gained 116 yards on eight carries in a win over Division I-AA Southeast Missouri State. Brandon Barnett is a bowling-ball-type with good speed and solid hands who posted a 100-yard game in 2007. He's likely to be the top pass-catcher out of the backfield. Converted linebacker Chip Gregory's move to become the "big back" lost steam with a high-ankle sprain early in the spring. Watch for the development of signees like De'Anthony Curtis and Dennis Johnson.

RECEIVERS The returning group has yet to distinguish itself, though Miller had three touchdowns among his 12 receptions in 2007. The best spring drills in the new regime belonged to Crawford, whose early career has been erratic; Marques Wade, who has no college catches; and Miller. Carlton Salters, Crosby Tuck and Fish also figure in the mix, along with a pack of highly touted newcomers that includes Joe Adams, Jarius Wright and Cruz Williams. You have to count tight ends Davie and Williams in this mix, as well as Cleveland, because this position, which includes H-back duties, will get the ball. Williams had a banner spring, and Davie's performance was also bright.

3,339

Darren McFadden (1,830),
Felix Jones (1,162) and Peyton Hillis
(347) combined to rush for 3,339 yards
last year. All three are gone.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE HOGS

At first glance, Arkansas appears too ravaged by departures on offense and too inexperienced in the back seven on defense to be a factor in the SEC West, much less the conference race. But the Razorbacks' positions of power lie in the trenches on both sides of the ball — a solid foundation on which to build — and their presumptive starting quarterback, **Casey Dick**, has loads of experience. **Bobby Petrino** has been able to identify and accelerate skill-position stars, some previously unheralded, in all of his college stops, so he is very likely to find major contributors to run and catch in his heretofore prolific system. If the O-line blocks as hoped, the Razorbacks find a productive big back to team with the little-guy tandem of **Michael Smith** and **Brandon Barnett**, and Dick manages to mesh with the receiving corps, then maybe Arkansas can field an above-average offense in the rugged SEC. There are questions aplenty on defense as well, starting with a linebacking corps wracked by injury (**Wendel Davis**), suspension (**Freddie Fairchild**), position change (**Chip Gregory**) and inexperience through the spring. Given the Razorbacks' difficult schedule, such as a road date at Texas in addition to the brutal SEC slate, a .500 overall record would seem like a reasonable debut for Petrino.



JONATHAN LUIGS

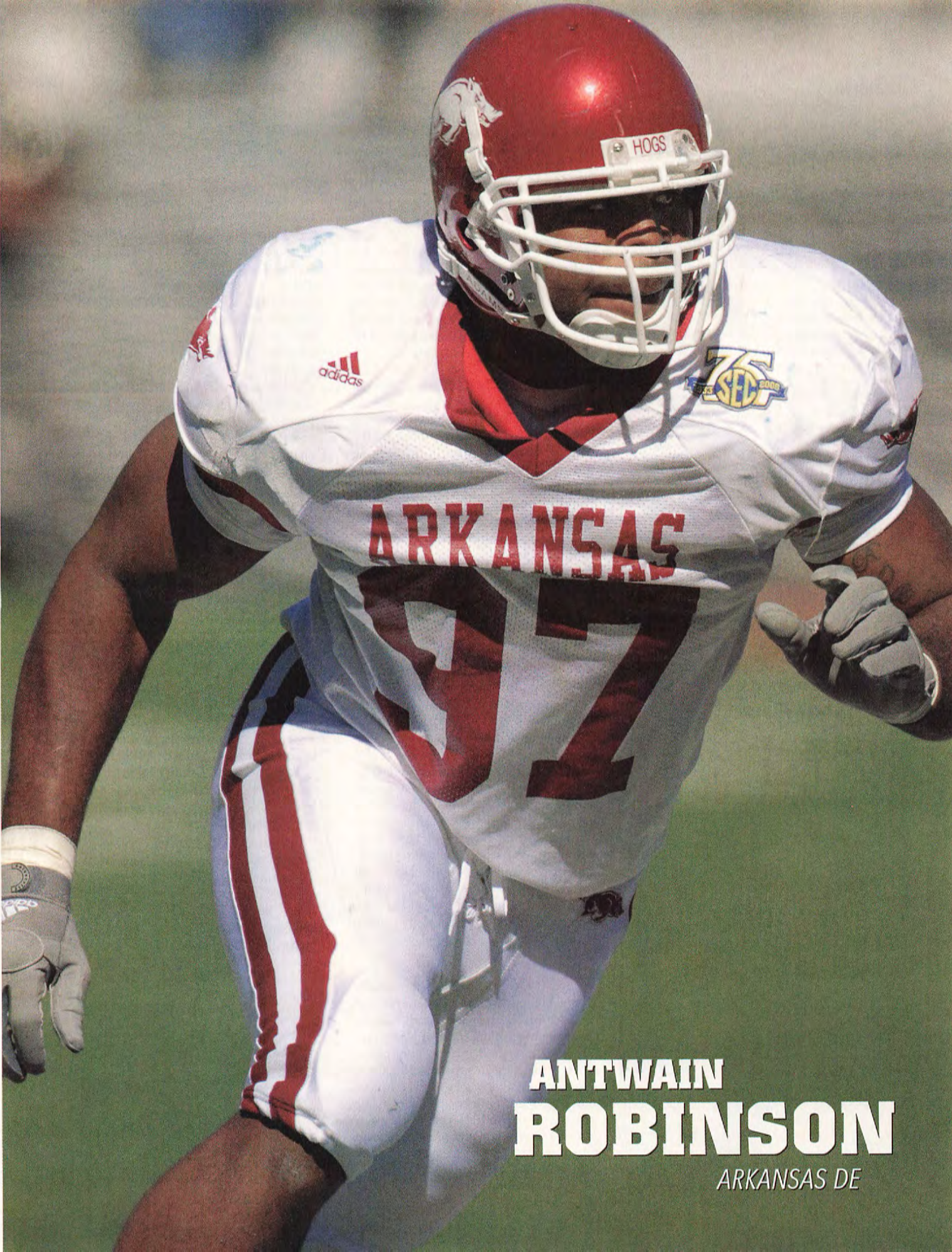
2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Western Illinois	W
S. 6	#UL Monroe	W
S. 13	at Texas	L
S. 20	Alabama	L
O. 4	Florida	L
O. 11	at Auburn	L
O. 18	at Kentucky	*
O. 25	Ole Miss	*
N. 1	Tulsa	*
N. 8	at South Carolina	L
N. 22	at Mississippi State	*
N. 28	#LSU	L

#Little Rock, AR

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Robinson, Luigs: Paul Levy



**ANTWAIN
ROBINSON**
ARKANSAS DE

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	2 London Crawford (Jr.)	1 Reggie Fish (Sr.)
WR	81 Marques Wade (So.)	88 Lucas Miller (Jr.)
LT	73 Ray Dominguez (So.)	72 Grant Cook (Fr.)
LG	66 Mitch Petrus (Sr.)	74 Kareem Crowell (Fr.)
C	63 Jonathan Luigs (Sr.)	60 Seth Oxner (Fr.)
RG	65 DeMarcus Love (So.)	71 Wade Grayson (So.)
RT	78 Jose Valdez (Sr.)	62 Michael Aguirre (Jr.)
TE	82 Andrew Davie (Jr.)	83 Lance Thompson (Sr.)
HB	45 D.J. Williams (So.)	86 Ben Cleveland (So.)
QB	11 Casey Dick (Sr.)	Alex Mortensen (Jr.)
RB	21 Michael Smith (Jr.)	6 Brandon Barnett (Jr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	53 Adrian Davis (Jr.)	54 Jake Bequette (Fr.)
NG	90 Ernest Mitchell (Sr.)	98 Cord Gray (Sr.)
DT	96 Malcolm Sheppard (Jr.)	93 Marcus Shavers (Sr.)
DE	97 Antwain Robinson (Sr.)	58 Damario Ambrose (So.)
WLB	41 Ryan Powers (So.)	46 Freddy Burton (So.)
MLB	47 Wendel Davis (Jr.)	34 Jerry Franklin (Fr.)
SLB	38 Elston Forte (Sr.)	44 Freddie Fairchild (Jr.)
CB	27 Jerrell Norton (Jr.)	24 Isaac Madison (So.)
CB	29 Jamar Love (Sr.)	28 Greg Gatson (So.)
SS	20 Dallas Washington (Sr.)	36 Walner Leandre (Sr.)
FS	39 Matt Harris (Jr.)	35 Rashaad Johnson (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	18 Alex Tejada (So.)	KR	21 Michael Smith (Jr.)
P	50 Jeremy Davis (Sr.)	PR	27 Jerrell Norton (Jr.)

ADRIAN DAVIS



OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Luigs, who shared the SEC's Jacobs Trophy as the league's top blocker last year, is the unquestioned leader of this bunch at center. Luigs, Petrus, the left guard, and tackle Jose Valdez are returning starters. Valdez found himself in a good battle with Ray Dominguez and Michael Aguirre for the starting tackle spots, so the fall should be interesting. DeMarcus Love, who won modest playing time last year, should slot as the other guard starter for a line that will flop sides under new assistant Mike Summers. Strong play up front was a trademark of Nutt's teams at Arkansas, and barring any significant injuries, the line should be a team strength in Petrino's first season.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN There is strength and athleticism to work with on the line, starting with outside rushers Davis and Robinson. Davis has a great frame for the position and makes plays in the running and passing game. Robinson has been in and out of the coach's doghouse, but on game days he has a penchant for disruption and big plays as evidenced by three career touchdowns. Mitchell missed spring after knee surgery, but he's a veteran plugger in the middle. Malcolm Sheppard has played inside and out and is the consummate team player. This group will need to tie up blockers to assist the slender linebacking corps.

LINEBACKERS What is probably the thinnest spot on the roster was depleted even more through spring with the absence of veteran strong-side backer Freddie Fairchild due to suspension and the would-be starter in the middle Wendel Davis due to injury. Fairchild was given an indefinite suspension, and his status for 2008 was unknown deep into the spring. If he does return, he gives the Hogs an All-SEC-type talent to lean on. Senior Elston Forte, a former safety, will likely grab a starting role on the strong or weak side. Young players such as Jerry Franklin, Ryan Powers, Jermaine Love and Aaron Fenton benefited with extra spring work, so there's a silver lining of sorts if the more veteran players all return.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Razorbacks have a big batch of names here but not much returning experience. Jerrell Norton, the team interception leader with five, projected as a cornerback starter, but he pulled a hamstring early in spring working as a punt returner, and watched as Jamar Love and Isaac Madison gained valuable time with the starting unit. Norton worked best as a nickel back last season and figures in the coverage mix. There are plenty of other corners vying for time, including Greg Gatson, Ramon Broadway, Shedrick John-

KEY RAZORBACKS

Jonathan Luigs, C He's the reigning Rimington Trophy winner as the nation's best center and Jacobs Trophy co-winner as the SEC's best blocker.

Adrian Davis, DE Great frame and major athleticism could make him the Hogs' next great defensive end.

Casey Dick, QB His career completion percentage isn't great, but he's been through the wars with 22 career starts.

Jerrell Norton, CB After leading the Razorbacks with five INTs in 2007, Norton was fighting for his starting job when he suffered a hamstring injury in the spring.

Freddie Fairchild, SLB His status is up in the air after an offseason arrest on two misdemeanor charges, but he's one of the most seasoned defenders on the roster.



KEY LOSSES

Darren McFadden, RB Two-time Heisman Trophy runner-ups and two-time Doak Walker Award winners come around, what, twice in a lifetime?

Felix Jones, RB Think the Hogs could use his 7.7 career yards per carry and kickoff return prowess this season?

Peyton Hillis, TB Versatile runner/pass catcher/blocker was an underrated dynamo behind the super backs.

Marcus Harrison, DT Once his knee got right about five games in, Harrison was a disrupter of the first order last year.

Marcus Monk, WR For three-and-a-half years, this 6'6" target was the man in the Razorback receiving corps.

RIISING STAR

Sophomore **Marques Wade's** next catch will be the first of his career after going without a grab as a freshman. The Bobby Petrino system has sprung unsung receiver talent into stars, and the 6'3", 192-pound Wade is positioned as well as any wideout to break out in 2008 after a productive spring.



Dick, Davis: Chris Covatta



2008 ARKANSAS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				DEFENSIVE BACKS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
11 Dick, Casey	6-2/215	Sr.	Allen, TX	62 Aguirre, Michael	6-6/315	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, FL	34 Franklin, Jerry	6-2/229	Fr.	Marion, AR
10 Dick, Nathan	6-4/217	Fr.	Allen, TX	Bemberg, Clay	6-3/280	So.	Little Rock, AR	37 Love, Jermaine	5-11/226	So.	Garland, TX
Mallett, Ryan	6-6/255	So.	Texarkana, TX	72 Cook, Grant	6-6/320	Fr.	Jonesboro, AR	40 Minde, Josh	6-0/223	Fr.	Richardson, TX
Mortensen, Alex	6-2/220	Jr.	Fairburn, GA	74 Crowell, Kareem	6-4/333	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL	41 Powers, Ryan	6-1/207	So.	Athens, AL
RUNNING BACKS				73 Dominguez, Ray	6-4/315	So.	Bainbridge, GA	52 Salinas, Robert	6-1/239	Jr.	La Joya, TX
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		79 Freeman, Grant	6-7/277	Fr.	Paris, AR	DEFENSIVE BACKS			
16 Armbrust, Seth	5-10/200	So.	Little Rock, AR	71 Grayson, Wade	6-4/292	So.	Harrison, AR	Barnett, Stephen	6-1/209	So.	Siloam Springs, AR
6 Barnett, Brandon	5-10/206	Jr.	Texarkana, AR	Hart, Jim	6-5/318	So.	Pocahontas, AR	Bettis, Evan	5-9/180	So.	Little Rock, AR
Durmon, John	5-11/217	Jr.	Warren, AR	65 Love, DeMarcus	6-5/302	So.	Lancaster, TX	26 Broadway, Ramon	5-9/191	So.	Shreveport, LA
42 Gregory, Chip	6-3/218	So.	Allen, TX	63 Luigs, Jonathan	6-4/314	Sr.	Little Rock, AR	Davis, John Michael	5-10/178	Fr.	Fayetteville, AR
Huskiisson, Taylor	6-0/215	Fr.	Wichita Falls, TX	60 Oxner, Seth	6-4/300	Fr.	Monticello, AR	28 Gatson, Greg	5-11/167	So.	Memphis, TN
33 Johnson, Darcel	5-11/228	Fr.	Marion, AR	66 Petrus, Mitch	6-4/305	Sr.	Carlisle, AR	Glasper, Darrell	5-8/180	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
Moore, Cliff	5-10/186	Fr.	Chicago, IL	Standridge, Cody	6-3/287	So.	Mount Ida, AR	32 Harris, Bret	6-0/209	Fr.	Irving, TX
21 Smith, Michael	5-7/173	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL	78 Valdez, Jose	6-5/313	Sr.	St. Francis WI	39 Harris, Matt	6-2/192	Jr.	Richardson, TX
14 Wilkins, Torian	5-9/191	So.	Katy, TX	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				35 Johnson, Rashaad	6-1/191	Jr.	Waco, TX
Williams, Landon	5-10/172	Fr.	Ashdown, AR	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		17 Johnson, Shedrick	5-10/188	Sr.	Sweeny, TX
RECEIVERS				58 Ambrose, Damarion	6-5/253	So.	Mobile, AL	36 Leandre, Walner	6-2/213	Sr.	Tampa, FL
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		54 Bequette, Jake	6-5/265	Fr.	Little Rock, AR	29 Love, Jamar	6-1/197	Sr.	N. Little Rock, AR
89 Chaisson, Joe	6-3/184	Fr.	Beaumont, TX	Berezansky, Chris	6-1/245	Jr.	Hillsborough, NJ	24 Madison, Isaac	6-0/181	So.	Dallas, TX
Chandler, Nigel	5-9/168	So.	Houston, TX	53 Davis, Adrian	6-4/238	Jr.	Rosenberg, TX	Neely, Shod	5-10/180	Fr.	Sherwood, AR
13 Coleman, Rod	6-1/192	Jr.	Camden, AR	98 Gray, Cord	6-1/305	Sr.	Wynne, AR	27 Norton, Jerell	6-0/190	Jr.	Cedar Hill, TX
2 Crawford, London	6-2/200	Jr.	Mobile, AL	95 Jones, Patrick	6-2/297	So.	Hampton, GA	20 Washington, Dallas	6-0/210	Sr.	Douglasville, TX
1 Fish, Reggie	5-7/160	Sr.	Mesquite, TX	92 Lampkin, Brandon	6-5/260	Fr.	Tucker, GA	SPECIALISTS			
88 Miller, Lucas	6-3/201	Jr.	Huntington, AR	90 Mitchell, Ernest	6-2/305	Sr.	Newnan, GA	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
87 Rees, John Aaron	6-0/207	Sr.	Little Rock, AR	97 Robinson, Antwain	6-2/258	Sr.	Little Rock, AR	50 Davis, Jeremy (P)	5-9/206	Sr.	Fort Smith, AR
19 Salters, Carlton	6-0/191	So.	Tallahassee, FL	57 Sanders, Donnell	6-3/238	So.	College Park, GA	Haddock, Shay (K)	5-9/185	So.	Arlington, TX
84 Tuck, Crosby	6-1/188	Fr.	Springdale, AR	93 Shavers, Marcus	6-3/280	Sr.	Lucas, TX	Hartwick, Derrell (LS)	5-9/168	Fr.	N. Little Rock, AR
Tucker, Austin	6-1/201	Fr.	Springdale, AR	96 Sheppard, Malcolm	6-3/277	Jr.	Bainbridge, GA	Reynolds, Barrett (LS)	6-1/232	So.	Plano, TX
81 Wade, Marques	6-3/192	So.	Ellenwood, GA	59 Stumon, Van	6-2/277	So.	N. Little Rock, AR	51 Richardson, Rhett (LS)	6-1/216	So.	Rockwall, TX
TIGHT ENDS				LINEBACKERS				Smith, Mitchell (P)	5-11/225	Jr.	Bentonville, AR
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		18 Tejada, Alex (K)	6-1/207	So.	Springdale, AR
86 Cleveland, Ben	6-4/252	So.	Springdale, AR	46 Burton, Freddy	6-2/221	So.	Morrilton, AR	Williams, Cody (K)	6-1/215	Fr.	Bryant, TX
82 Davie, Andrew	6-5/266	Jr.	Little Rock, AR	47 Davis, Wendel	6-1/224	Jr.	Sweeny, TX				
Henry, Joseph	6-3/232	Jr.	Conway, AR	44 Fairchild, Freddie	6-3/210	Jr.	Little Rock, AR				
83 Thompson, Lance	6-4/227	Sr.	Searcy, AR	Fenton, Aaron	6-1/216	So.	Plano, TX				
45 Williams, D.J.	6-2/250	So.	Little Rock, AR	38 Forte, Elston	6-0/219	Sr.	Little Rock, AR				

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5 (4-4 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Troy	W	46-26	73,926
S. 15	at Alabama	L	41-38	92,138
S. 22	Kentucky	L	42-29	74,015
S. 29	North Texas	W	66-7	66,343
O. 6	Chattanooga	W	34-15	54,836
O. 13	Auburn	L	9-7	72,463
O. 20	at Ole Miss	W	44-8	52,671
O. 27	Florida International	W	58-10	60,750
N. 3	South Carolina	W	48-36	70,742
N. 10	at Tennessee	L	34-13	104,459
N. 17	Mississippi State	W	45-31	55,185
N. 23	at LSU	W	(3ot) 50-48	92,606
J. 1	# Missouri	L	38-7	73,144
# Cotton Bowl				

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Casey Dick	262	150	1,695	18	10
Nathan Emert	37	21	288	2	1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Darren McFadden	325	1,830	5.6	16	
Felix Jones	133	1,162	8.7	11	
Peyton Hillis	62	347	5.6	2	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Peyton Hillis	49	537	11.0	5	
Darren McFadden	21	164	7.8	1	
Felix Jones	16	176	11.0	0	

Kicking: Alex Tejada, 17-23 FGs, 58-60 XPs, 109 points
 Tackles: Matt Hewitt, 112; Weston Dacus, 76
 Sacks: Freddie Fairchild, 4.0
 Interceptions: Jerell Norton, 5

Returning Players in Bold

son and walk-on Darrell Glasper. The safety position could also be deep, as Rashaad Johnson, a late-season starter in '07, battled through spring for a starting job with Matt Harris and Dallas Washington. With prized assistant Lorenzo "Whammy" Ward doing his thing, this unit should be a strength for the defense and special teams.

SPECIALISTS Alex Tejada could develop into even a greater weapon as a sophomore kicker. Tejada made 17-of-23 field goals with a long of 47 last year and was 13-of-13 inside 40 yards until missing twice in the Cotton Bowl. Jeremy Davis is the returning punter after ranking sixth in the SEC with a 40-yard average. The Razorbacks' 33.1-yard net punting — 93rd in the NCAA — must get better this season. Kick returns won't be as explosive without Jones and McFadden, though Smith has burning speed and elusiveness. Punt returns have been abysmal, ranking 107th last year.

JERELL NORTON



SCOUTING THE RAZORBACKS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP ARKANSAS "In my opinion they do not have the kids (Bobby Petrino) needs — a few maybe, but not what he's going to need to win in the SEC, no way. But he'll do what he does and install his system. They're going to throw it. It's what he does, and in time it will attract wide receivers and will attract quarterbacks. ... The rap (the old staff got) at Arkansas was that they never threw the football, so when you're trying to recruit a great receiver, he's not going to go there, so you're doing the same old thing. ... With the media and talk radio and Internet, it got to the point where they were not concerned about winning. They wanted a show. They got on (Houston) Nutt about running it. Well, you're there to win games. In two years, Houston won 18 games. ... They always have good backs, not always a (Darren) McFadden or a (Felix) Jones, but guys who are fast, solid backs, and guys who can run. ... You can win at Arkansas, but it's very difficult to sustain success at a high level."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Tight at tight end One of the greatest assets available to the Razorbacks during the first year of the Petrino regime will be an abundance of quality tight ends. Junior Andrew Davie has a big body (6'5", 266) for blocking, but also had 14 catches, three for touchdowns, last season. Sophomore D.J. Williams (6'2", 250) could become the biggest beneficiary of the coaching change, as he excelled in the spring as a tight end and H-back. Ben Cleveland, who had a solid freshman season in 2006, missed all of last season with neck and foot injuries, but he's back in the mix as an athletic big man (6'4", 252) this time around. Lance Thompson failed to catch a pass last season, but the 6'4", 227-pound senior should see plenty of action as a dual-purpose blocker and pass-catcher in the fall.

Brothers abound The Petrino brothers, Bobby and Paul, have taken their offensive regime to the Ozarks, where they'll have another pair of brothers vying to become the triggerman. Senior quarterback Casey Dick has the inside track to become the starter for the Petrinos, while his brother, redshirt freshman Nathan Dick, is among the aspiring signal-callers. Rashaad Johnson, a candidate for a starting safety slot, is the brother of Robert Johnson, whose career as a quarterback and receiver for the Razorbacks ended after last season.

Swapping spots The position switching under the first-year Bobby Petrino regime was relatively minimal in the spring. The most significant change involved former linebacker Chip Gregory moving to offense in a bid to become the "big back" on offense. Gregory, a 6'3", 218-pounder, was slowed for much of the spring by a high-ankle sprain. "At running back, I like his size, and I like his strength," Petrino says. The other changes were minor: Malcolm Sheppard from defensive end to defensive tackle, Van Stumon from defensive end to nosetackle, and walk-on Robert Salinas from fullback to linebacker.

All you need is Love The Razorbacks will feature three players with the surname "Love" on the 2008 roster, and all are likely to be heavy contributors. Senior Jamar Love was holding a starting cornerback job through spring practice, sophomore DeMarcus Love appears ready to grab a starting spot at offensive guard, and sophomore Jermaine Love is in the mix at reserve linebacker duty. The only more common last name on the Arkansas roster is Davis, of which there are four: Adrian, Jeremy, John Michael and Wendel.

Norton: Chris Orelia

2008 SIGNEES

Bobby Petrino and his staff moved quickly after his Dec. 11 hiring to hold onto the signing class, particularly the players inside the state borders, and by general consensus it was a job well done. The Razorbacks, in desperate need of an influx of runners and pass-catchers to feed the Petrino offensive system, bumped into a particularly prosperous in-state class of skill-position talent, and Arkansas racked up.

"I feel like we were fortunate some of the needs we had were also some of the strengths of this state's available recruits," Petrino says. "That made it a real good fit, the fact the state was loaded with receivers and talented running backs."

Of the Razorbacks' 25-member signing class, 14 are running backs, receivers, defensive backs or "athletes." The batch of incoming receivers was solid with a group featuring height and speed in Greg Childs, Chris Gragg, Cruz Williams and Jarius Wright, then in-state gem Joe Adams flipped to the Razorbacks on Signing Day, giving the class a major lift. Freshman quarterbacks Tyler Wilson and Jim Youngblood could be talented enough to compete for the No. 2 job in 2008 and battle with Michigan transfer Ryan Mallett and holdover Nathan Dick for the top job in the future.

Perhaps the highest-rated player in the class was running back De'Anthony Curtis, who scored 18 touchdowns while rushing for 1,237 yards as a senior. Curtis is a product of Camden Fairview High, which teamed with its fellow south Arkansas town Warren to send eight players to Fayetteville, nearly one-third of the entire class. Curtis was joined by Fairview teammates in defensive linemen Lavunce Askew and Brian Christopher and the quarterback Youngblood. The Warren signees were all skill players: Childs, Gragg, Wright and versatile Basmine Jones.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Wide Receivers	5
Athletes	4
Defensive Linemen.....	4
Defensive Backs.....	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Linebackers	2
Quarterbacks	2
Running Backs	2

BY STATE

Arkansas	15
Georgia.....	3
Louisiana	2
Texas	2
Florida	1
Indiana	1
Tennessee	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

CRUZ WILLIAMS • WR • LITTLE ROCK, AR

During Arkansas' darkest hours in the dead of winter without a head coach, Razorback receiver commitment Cruz Williams was determined not to let the team's projected signing class fall apart.

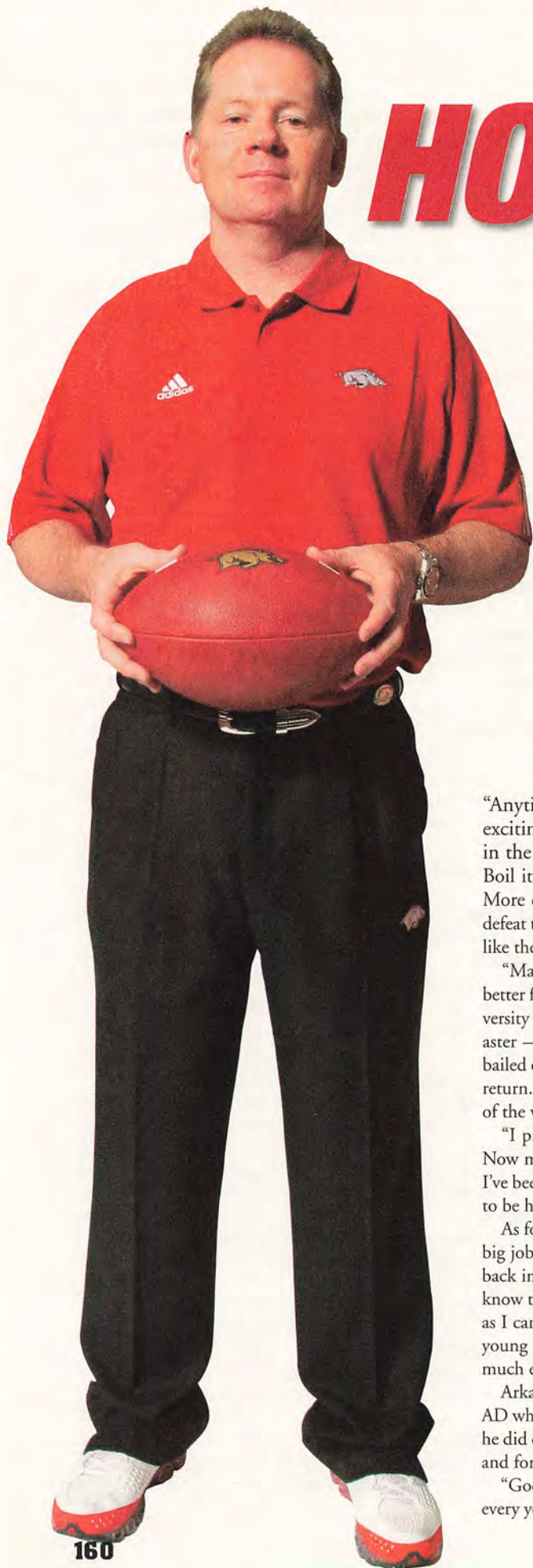
Williams acquired the phone numbers of several key in-state commitments, made calls and formed bonds with players such as De'Anthony Curtis, Greg Childs and Jim Youngblood during the Arkansas coaching search. "They were excited to hear from me," says Williams, a self-described big-time Arkansas fan. "We talked about throwing routes and getting to know each other. I'm glad they picked up my phone call and talked about it."

Williams played a crucial role in keeping the Razorbacks' in-state commitments intact, and he also helped deliver a Signing Day bonus: his best friend Joe Adams. A commitment to USC through much of the fall and winter, Adams called on the Hogs when it came time to sign.

"It took me forever to get him to change his mind," Williams says with a laugh. "I wasn't telling him, 'Just go to Arkansas, go to Arkansas.' I talked to him about where do you want to live the next four years."

Adams and Williams both happen to be highly touted receivers, along with fellow freshmen Greg Childs, Chris Gragg and Jarius Wright. There's a chance this group could make an immediate impact in Bobby Petrino's offense this season.

JOE ADAMS	WR	6'0"	175	LITTLE ROCK, AR
Ranked No. 2 prospect in Arkansas and No. 12 cornerback in nation by Rivals.com. Recorded 770 receiving yards, 742 rushing yards and 25 TDs as a senior.				
LAVUNCE ASKEW	DL	6'3"	288	CAMDEN, AR
Ranked No. 8 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com and Scout.com.				
KHIRY BATTLE	ATH	5'11"	209	DACULA, GA
Registered 86 tackles, three forced fumbles and one INT as a senior.				
GREG CHILDS	WR	6'5"	200	WARREN, AR
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Arkansas by Scout.com. Had 15 TD catches as a junior.				
BRIAN CHRISTOPHER	DL	6'4"	240	CAMDEN, AR
Registered seven sacks and one INT returned 72 yards for a TD as a senior.				
DE'ANTHONY CURTIS	RB	5'10"	211	CAMDEN, AR
Ranked No. 1 prospect in Arkansas and No. 6 running back in nation by Rivals.com. Offensive Player of the Year by <i>Arkansas Democrat-Gazette</i> in '07.				
ALFRED DAVIS	DL	6'2"	305	COLLEGE PARK, GA
Recorded 24 tackles for a loss, five fumble recoveries and two sacks in '07.				
AUSTIN EOFF	OL	6'5"	308	FORT SMITH, AR
Ranked No. 14 player in Arkansas and No. 33 guard in country by Rivals.com.				
ELTON FORD	S	6'0"	208	ALPHARETTA, GA
Named North Fulton County Player of the Year and Class 5A All-State by GSWA.				
ALBERT GRAY	ATH	5'10"	180	CITRA, FL
Named Class 3A Player of the Year. Scored 35 total TDs as a senior.				
CHRIS GRAGG	WR	6'3"	199	WARREN, AR
Ranked No. 15 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com.				
MATT HALL	OL	6'10"	300	RUSSELLVILLE, AR
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Arkansas and No. 28 tackle in nation by Rivals.com.				
DENNIS JOHNSON	RB	5'8"	192	TEXARKANA, AR
Named MVP of Class 6A state title game in '06 and '07. Ranked No. 10 prospect in Arkansas, No. 33 running back in country by Rivals.com.				
BASMINE JONES	ATH	6'0"	195	WARREN, AR
Ranked No. 13 prospect in Arkansas by HawgSports.com.				
JERICO NELSON	ATH	5'11"	207	DESTREHAN, LA
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Louisiana and No. 23 athlete in nation by Rivals.com.				
ANTHONY ODEN	OL	6'8"	310	INDIANAPOLIS, IN
Brother, Greg, was No. 1 overall pick of the Trailblazers in 2007 NBA Draft.				
CHRIS RAGGETT	CB	5'11"	172	BEAUMONT, TX
Recorded 94 tackles and four INTs as a senior.				
JELANI SMITH	LB	6'1"	213	ABBEVILLE, LA
Ranked No. 35 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com.				
ZAC STADTHER	DL	6'2"	291	NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR
Ranked No. 13 prospect in Arkansas by Rivals.com.				
TRAMAIN THOMAS	CB	6'1"	181	WINNIE, TX
Rushed for 1,352 yards and 30 TDs on offense; had 11 INTs on defense in '07.				
CRUZ WILLIAMS	WR	6'4"	206	LITTLE ROCK, AR
Ranked No. 4 prospect in Arkansas by Scout.com. Registered 105 receptions for 1,306 yards and 18 TDs as senior; 1,200 yards and 19 TDs as junior.				
TYLER WILSON	QB	6'3"	186	GREENWOOD, AR
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Arkansas and No. 9 pro-style quarterback in the nation by Rivals.com. Threw for 3,939 yards and 42 TDs as senior.				
JARIUS WRIGHT	WR	5'11"	180	WARREN, AR
Ranked No. 3 prospect in Arkansas and No. 30 receiver in country by Rivals.com. Had 1,350 receiving yards and 25 total TDs in '07.				
TENARIUS WRIGHT	LB	6'3"	231	MEMPHIS, TN
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Tennessee and No. 28 middle linebacker by Scout.com. Recorded 92 tackles, five sacks, three forced fumbles and three INTs as senior.				
JIM YOUNGBLOOD	QB	6'2"	217	CAMDEN, AR
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Arkansas and No. 29 quarterback in nation by Scout.com. Passed for 2,533 yards and 18 TDs; rushed for 643 yards and 16 TDs in '07.				



HOGS WILD

ABOUT BOBBY P.

by Tom Murphy

Bobby Petrino is back in his comfort zone.

One year in the NFL, with the craziness that was the Atlanta Falcons' lost season of 2007, convinced Petrino that "home" was in the college ranks. So, the Montana native finds himself far from the big city, in the Ozark Mountains at the University of Arkansas, back in the SEC, which he considers the best conference in the country, and back in the business for which he feels best suited.

"Anytime you come back to college football and you see that challenge, it's exciting to line up and coach against the quality coaches and players that are in the SEC conference," Petrino said four months into his return to college. Boil it down, and Petrino has a touch of a football mad scientist in his nature. More comfortable in his laboratory, cooking up schemes and plays and ways to defeat the modern zone blitz than doing his thing on the big NFL stage in a soap opera like the Falcons lived through last season.

"Maybe his style of coaching isn't necessarily a perfect fit for the NFL and maybe a better fit for college," says Brian Brohm, who played three years for Petrino at the University of Louisville. Petrino's experiment as an NFL head coach was pretty much a disaster — for himself, his family and the Atlanta organization. Make no mistake, he bailed on the Falcons with three games remaining in the season, and he was roasted in return. Petrino turned that page mentally and essentially didn't look back. He's aware of the withering criticism directed at him, but not fully aware.

"I probably still am not," he says. "I didn't watch it. I didn't pay attention to it. Now my wife has made some comments to me ... and other people have said, when I've been at the Razorback functions or whatever, 'We don't care what ESPN says,' but to be honest with you, I didn't listen to it or hear any of it."

As for his public image, as a supremely gifted coach with a wanderlust for that next big job, Petrino seems somewhat perplexed. "What is (my image)?" Petrino bounces back in reply to a question about whether he's comfortable with his public image. "I know this, that I've always been able to look in the mirror and say that I work as hard as I can for the game of football and do everything I think I can possibly do to help young men grow and get better. I feel comfortable with how much energy and how much effort I've put into my career."

Arkansas athletic director Jeff Long wasn't even officially working in his capacity as AD when he went on the search early last December that led him to Petrino. Long says he did extensive homework on Petrino's rationale for leaving Louisville for the Falcons and for bolting Atlanta, at a significant cut in pay, when he did.

"Good coaches are being contacted every year about jobs," Long says. "I expect that every year somebody's going to be coming after Bobby Petrino. If they're not, you may

Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

not have a great coach. It's not unusual, it's not unexpected to have people coming after your coaches."

Long says he was comfortable with Petrino's explanation as to why, when he was a first-year head coach at Louisville in 2003, he agreed to meet secretly with Auburn administrators about the possibility of replacing his former boss, Tommy Tuberville. Petrino's public explanation: He was a young head coach and he made a mistake.

On the field, Petrino believes in a rugged work ethic and exacting attention to detail. His 41-9 record at Louisville, which in 2006 included a 12-1 mark, the Big East championship and a 24-13 Orange Bowl victory against Wake Forest, was nothing short of a marvel. Long was athletic director of Big East rival Pitt during that time.

"I saw his offense, saw the explosiveness of it, knew he could coach," Long says. "You could see those things through direct observation, as well as listening to your own coaches as they tried to prepare to compete against him."

Brohm prospered in the Petrino system.

"Coach Petrino played a huge part in my development," Brohm says. "He's a tremendous X's and O's coach. He's a hard-nosed, tough coach. We ran an NFL-style offense. He geared things for the quarterback to be successful. He did a large part of coaching the quarterbacks, so he really helped me out a lot in becoming a better player and taking my game to the next level."

Arkansas fans and players practically salivated at the thought of unleashing a pass-profligate offensive attack on the SEC after years of a run-first, run-a-lot mentality, that was mostly successful, under Houston Nutt.

"First of all, we were honestly thinking, 'We're gonna throw the ball, gonna throw the ball, gonna throw the ball,'" says junior receiver London Crawford.

"The receivers, we're loving this offense," adds senior Reggie Fish.

"We're about to throw the ball," said junior Lucas Miller, the Razorbacks' top returning wide receiver with 12 catches for 157 yards, when he first heard of Petrino's hiring.

What they might not have grasped is how multi-dimensional Petrino's offense is when it's operating in top form. His 2004 Louisville team ranked eighth nationally in rushing with 250.4 yards per game, ninth in passing (288.6 ypg), and first in total offense (539.0 ypg) and scoring (49.8 points per game).

Arkansas players believe the Petrino system will spawn big plays and produce strong offensive numbers, even though the Razorbacks lost nearly 90 percent of their rushing and five of the top six pass catchers off last year's club,

which ranked 17th nationally in total offense.

"It'll be very explosive, I can tell you that," junior running back Michael Smith says. "We'll probably run the same play out of about 12 different formations. The defense won't even know what hit them. If we get it together, we'll be all right."

Petrino won't elaborate on what he thinks of the current talent level at Arkansas and how it'll fit into his system, but he's confident his offense will work. After all, the term "offensive juggernaut" would not have been an exaggeration for the four-year period at Louisville in which the Cardinals ranked fifth, first, ninth and second nationally in total offense. "There were a couple of years there — one year we had the (539) yards a game and another we were close to that — and I remember thinking, 'We'll never see this again,'" Petrino says.

Paul Petrino, the Arkansas offensive coordinator who followed his brother to Louisville and the Falcons, speaks of a unique chemistry between the two. "It's a real good working relationship because we know what our strengths are and how we work off each other," he says. "I know exactly what he wants and that plays a big part of it. We were both

and I think Coach Petrino's a perfect guy to teach me how to be, not only one of the best offensive coaches in the business, but prepare myself to be a head football coach."

Bobby Petrino learned under his father at Carroll College, then quickly began absorbing a multitude of offensive philosophies. "(Bob Petrino) always had an ability to find a way to move the ball and to count sides," Petrino says. "How many guys the defense has on one side and how many on the other and where you attack them in the run game."

Passing principles came from work and study with Dennis Erickson and Mike Price. He plugged in more power-running stuff after a stint with Bruce Snyder at Arizona State, and before long all the ideas were molded into the Petrino system. In a one-year stint at Louisville as offensive coordinator in 1998, Petrino helped the Cards rank first in total offense and scoring as his system blossomed.

"We were able to have a sitdown and rewrite the entire playbook," Petrino says of that year. "Get rid of all the things that were just there because that is how you did it back then. That's when it really started to become a little different."

"I know this, that I've always been able to look in the mirror and say that I work as hard as I can for the game of football and do everything I think I can possibly do to help young men grow and get better."

— Bobby Petrino

raised by a football coach (Bob Petrino Sr.) in the same house and knew how he did things in terms of organization and how to coach on the field and coach every play and have enthusiasm. So I think a lot of that has helped working together."

Bobby Petrino will call the plays for the Razorbacks, which suits Paul Petrino just fine. "The best thing (Bobby Petrino) does is call plays so it'd be silly for him to ever not do that," Paul Petrino says.

Arkansas quarterbacks coach Garrick McGee gave up a coordinator's role at Northwestern to work under the guru. "When you look at the relationship I have with Coach Petrino, you look at being a quarterbacks coach in the Southeastern Conference ... you look at me being able to go into my home state and recruit athletes, and the fact that I know Bob Petrino has his eyes set on a national championship, when you add all that together, it was a no-brainer for me," McGee says. "And, I want to be a head football coach some day

The current Razorbacks have bought in. "Once you figure it out and you read it right, it's basically unstoppable," quarterback Casey Dick says. "You just go up and down the field once you figure it out and read it right."

Petrino understands that his team isn't at the top of any preseason rankings. "This time of the year and before the season starts, everybody looks at who you have returning and who you lost," he says. "(Darren) McFadden and Felix Jones, and the other guys, too. There were eight guys from Arkansas invited to the Combine. That's what they see. When we get to the point that we have guys returning every year that had great years the previous year, then you're going to see people who think you are going to go 12-0. But when they look at our roster right now and see the experience at running back and the experience at receiver and what we lost in the secondary, you can understand where they're coming from."

Petrino sounds like he has a grip on this college game. He's in his comfort zone.



HEAD COACH: TOMMY TUBERVILLE **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 80-33 (9 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 105-53 (13 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TONY FRANKLIN **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** PAUL RHOADS

AUBURN, ALA. JORDAN-HARE STADIUM (87,451)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

8



SEC WEST
PREDICTION

1

AUBURN
tigers

Tommy Tuberville isn't afraid to shake up things, so the coach of the team that is tied for the most SEC wins this century has a new offensive coordinator, a new defensive coordinator and a new starting quarterback heading into his 10th season at Auburn.

Welcome to Tuberville's world, where change is not to be feared. Tuberville is working on his fifth offensive coordinator and fifth defensive coordinator at Auburn. The newcomers are Paul Rhoads (defense) from Pittsburgh, who is replacing the popular Will Muschamp, and Tony Franklin, whose spread offense replaces Al Borges' West Coast attack.

What we don't know, though, is the name of the next starting quarterback. Auburn left spring practice like it began it with Kodi Burns and junior college transfer Chris Todd vying for the starting job. Todd has a better grasp of the spread offense, but Burns' passing improved in the spring and his running ability makes him a dual threat. The race to replace three-year starter Brandon Cox may go to opening day, and perhaps beyond. It's likely that both Burns and Todd will play.

What they can deliver is something Auburn fans may have forgotten. The Tigers ended the regular season ranked 102nd in total offense, but then Franklin came on board, and, after only nine practices, the Tigers turned in their best offensive game of the season in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. After rolling up 423 yards in the win over Clemson, the Tigers jumped up five spots and finished the year ranked 97th in total offense.

Did that raise the expectations of Auburn fans? Yes it did.

QUARTERBACKS Franklin likes Todd, so much so that he gave his sometimes-sore-shouldered quarterback a free pass in spring practice. Todd enrolled at Auburn in January in order to go through spring workouts, but he missed the early stages of practice and never got beyond "65 percent" healthy. Still, he looked sharp enough when he played and showed why Franklin likes him so much. Franklin and Todd have a history; Franklin served as an offensive consultant to various high schools — including Todd's Elizabethtown (Ky.) High — a few years back. After throwing for 3,180 yards as a prep senior, Todd signed on with pass-happy Texas Tech. But after two seasons — and only 35 attempted passes — in Lubbock, he left for a junior college. After one season at Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, Todd reunited with Franklin, who arrived at Auburn in December after a two-year stay at Troy. Burns, on the other hand, was Cox's backup last year, but he was nothing more than the designated running quarterback after the first few weeks. He threw one pass during a five-game stretch and didn't even play in the last two regular-season games. Franklin gave Burns an opportunity to play in the bowl game, and the Arkansas native delivered, throwing a touchdown pass and running for the game-winning score in overtime. Burns also finished spring practice with a flourish. "Competition makes you better if you're a great player. If you're not a great player, you wither away from it. He's answered the call," Franklin says. "We've got a wonderful problem."

RUNNING BACKS Auburn knows it has four top-flight runners in Brad Lester, Ben Tate, Mario Fannin and Tristan Davis. That knowledge served the Tigers well in the spring, since most of them were hurt. It was something of a wasted spring for those four, especially if you consider that they weren't on the field to learn the intricacies of the passing game in the spread. The real question this fall may not be their running ability, but Tuberville's promise to let the spread offense do its thing. The Riverboat Gambler has become more conservative over the years, so it will be a test for him to allow Franklin to line up in the shotgun on 3rd-and-1 in the fourth quarter in a key SEC game, as the Tigers did on every play in the spring game. Tate rushed for a team-leading 903 yards and eight touchdowns. He only topped the 100-yard mark once (111 in a win vs. New Mexico State) but rushed for at least 70 yards in five of the Tigers' eight SEC games. The speedy Lester went for 530 and three TDs last season despite missing the first five games with an academic suspension. They'll play the traditional running back roles. But perhaps the most compelling jobs may go to Fannin and Davis, athletic backs who may excel in the spread whether in the

10 Auburn has only had one head coach the last 10 years, but there have been 10 different coordinators for Tommy Tuberville. You're a winner if you said Noel Mazzone was the first offensive coordinator and John Lovett was the first defensive coordinator.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE TIGERS

The buzz in Auburn is all about straight-shooting offensive coordinator **Tony Franklin**, who raised the expectations of fans when he showed up last December and produced a season-best 423 yards and an eye-popping 90 plays in beating Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl. Franklin will have to follow through with a new quarterback, but the replacements for Brandon Cox's old job seem to be more suited for his spread offense anyway. Franklin will choose from junior college transfer **Chris Todd**, whom he has tutored since the 10th grade, and last year's backup, **Kodi Burns**, who can run and throw. Auburn will need lots of wide receivers to make Franklin's offense go, and that's something the Tigers have been short of the last few years. But Franklin and **Tommy Tuberville** are trying to dispel the misconception that the spread is mainly a throwing offense. Tuberville promises Running Back U. won't be without a running game, and he can back it up with proven tailbacks **Ben Tate** and **Brad Lester**. The Tigers desperately want their offense to catch up with their defense. The fiery Will Muschamp became something of a YouTube celebrity as Auburn's defensive coordinator before heading off to Texas. Don't worry. New coordinator **Paul Rhoads** is just as intense, very much old school and doesn't mind keeping his players after school.



BRAD LESTER

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	UL Monroe	W
S. 6	Southern Miss	W
S. 13	at Mississippi State	W
S. 20	LSU	*
S. 27	Tennessee	W
O. 4	at Vanderbilt	W
O. 11	Arkansas	W
O. 23	at West Virginia	*
N. 1	at Ole Miss	W
N. 8	Tennessee-Martin	W
N. 15	Georgia	*
N. 29	at Alabama	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Take: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Lester: Sam Jordan



**BEN
TATE**
AUBURN RB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR 16 James Swinton (Sr.)	23 Chris Slaughter (So.)
WR 80 Rodgerius Smith (Sr.)	84 Montez Billings (Jr.)
WR 3 Robert Dunn (Sr.)	14 Terrell Zachery (So.)
LT 73 Lee Ziemba (So.)	79 Jared Cooper (Fr.)
LG 71 Tyronne Green (Sr.)	58 Kyle Coulahan (Fr.)
C 68 Jason Bosley (Sr.)	50 Ryan Pugh (So.)
RG 76 Chaz Ramsey (So.)	57 Byron Isom (So.)
RT 50 Ryan Pugh (So.)	66 Mike Berry (So.)
TE 5 Tommy Trott (Jr.)	83 Gabe McKenzie (Jr.)
QB 18 Kodi Burns (So.)	12 Chris Todd (Jr.)
RB 44 Ben Tate (Jr.)	1 Brad Lester (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE 52 Antonio Coleman (Jr.)	45 Antoine Carter (So.)
DT 91 Jake Ricks (Jr.)	98 Zach Clayton (So.)
DT 94 Sen'Derrick Marks (Jr.)	93 Mike Blanc (So.)
DE 42 Raven Gray (Jr.)	49 Michael Goggans (So.)
LB 46 Craig Stevens (So.)	56 Courtney Harden (Sr.)
LB 10 Tray Blackmon (Jr.)	17 Josh Byrnes (So.)
LB 59 Chris Evans (Sr.)	55 Merrill Johnson (Sr.)
CB 8 Jerraud Powers (Jr.)	25 Ryan Williams (So.)
CB 2 Aairon Savage (Jr.)	6 Walter McFadden (Jr.)
SS 4 Zac Etheridge (So.)	11 Mike Slade (Fr.)
FS 26 Mike McNeil (So.)	17 Jonathan Vickers (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 18 Wes Byrum (So.)	KR 9 Tristan Davis (Sr.)
P 21 Ryan Shoemaker (So.)	PR 3 Robert Dunn (Sr.)

ZAC ETHERIDGE



backfield or lining up as a slot receiver. Fannin was third on the team in rushing as a redshirt freshman with 448 yards but had some ball-security issues early in the season.

RECEIVERS Auburn went into last season looking for six good wide receivers. Franklin has other ideas. "You want to have 10 guys, and we should have that when the freshmen get here," he says. Auburn's leading receiver last year was former walk-on Rod Smith, who caught 52 passes for 705 yards. Franklin's offense should be a god-send to the other wide receivers, who will have a chance to pad their stats in the spread. A veteran receiving corps of Montez Billings, Robert Dunn, Tim Hawthorne, Terrell Zachery, James Swinton and Chris Slaughter will be given plenty of chances. Of that group, only Billings had more than 20 catches last season. That no doubt will change. Tight end Tommy Trott was a pass-catching machine in the spring, and that was certainly a change from last fall, when he caught only four passes.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Auburn started three true freshmen on the offensive line at Florida Field in the fifth game of the season last year and lived to tell about it. Now, sophomores Lee Ziemba, Chaz Ramsey and Ryan Pugh are grizzled veterans and will join emerging star Tyronne Green, a senior guard, and senior center Jason Bosley on what should be one of the SEC's better offensive lines. Word of warning: This group must learn how to operate in the spread.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN Auburn has to replace three key defensive line contributors, including the bubbly Quentin Groves and blue-collar Josh Thompson. But every one of the replacements received plenty of work last season at what was the team's deepest position. Antonio Coleman, who had 18 tackles for a loss in 2007, will take over for Groves at defensive end. He is a potential star. A name to remember is Sen'Derrick Marks, who moves from end to tackle. His 43 tackles are tops among returning defensive linemen. Junior college transfer Raven Gray also figures to play a key role.

LINEBACKERS Tray Blackmon enters his third season of a career that has been sidetracked by suspensions and injuries, not that many have noticed. He'd still be voted the No. 1 impact defensive player in a poll of fans. He played on a bad ankle and missed three games last year and still managed 45 tackles. A healthy Blackmon would make everybody's job a lot easier. Merrill Johnson, Chris Evans and Craig Stevens will all see significant action on the

KEY TIGERS

Sen'Derrick Marks, DT Moving from defensive end to defensive tackle and figures to be a force.

Antonio Coleman, DT A full-time starter now after recording 18 tackles for a loss last year.

Tyronne Green, LG Coaches love the senior guard and project him to be the Tigers' next great lineman.

Ben Tate, RB Speed and toughness helped him rush for 903 yards last year.

Jerraud Powers, CB Can play the ball and make an open-field tackle; a nice combo for a cornerback.



KEY LOSSES

Brandon Cox, QB Three-year starter doesn't leave much experience behind.

Quentin Groves, DE Colorful player had a solid though injury-plagued senior season.

Pat Sims, DT Big man skipped out early for a shot in the NFL.

Josh Thompson, DT Man in the middle led Auburn with 67 tackles.

Pat Lee, DB Cornerback tied for the team lead with four interceptions.

RIISING STAR

Mike McNeil was born to play. His grandfather, Clifton McNeil, was an All-Pro wide receiver in the '60s, but whereas Clifton caught passes, Mike McNeil wants to bat them away. One of 15 true freshmen to play for Auburn last year, McNeil is now projected as a starting safety after recording 35 tackles as a backup in 2007.



Powers: Sam Jordan; Etheridge: Tim Clark/Althon Sports



2008 AUBURN ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

18 Burns, Kodi	6-1/205	So.	Fort Smith, AR
19 Caudle, Neil	6-3/200	So.	Hoover, AL
15 Furr, DeRon	6-3/218	Fr.	Columbus, GA
12 Todd, Chris	6-4/212	Jr.	Elizabethtown, KY

RUNNING BACKS

20 Anderson, Jeremy	5-8/179	Fr.	Clanton, AL
38 Anyadike, Brian	5-10/195	So.	Auburn, AL
9 Davis, Tristan	5-10/217	Sr.	East Point, GA
30 Douglas, John	6-2/231	Fr.	Augusta, GA
27 Fannin, Mario	5-11/217	So.	Hampton, VA
47 Gibson, Mike	5-11/219	Fr.	Boligee, AL
42 Hastie, Ryan	6-0/246	Sr.	Salinas, CA
39 Hooper, Davis	6-0/205	Fr.	Montgomery, AL
24 Jemison, Anthony	5-11/184	So.	McCalla, AL
29 King, Jason	6-0/230	So.	Newnan, GA
1 Lester, Brad	5-11/198	Sr.	Lilburn, GA
28 Tarver, Jeffery	5-10/257	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA
44 Tate, Ben	5-11/215	Jr.	Newark, MD

RECEIVERS

84 Billings, Montez	6-2/188	Jr.	Pelham, AL
85 Carr, Quindarius	6-1/175	Fr.	Huntsville, AL
41 Cook, Vincent	5-10/200	Fr.	Midfield, AL
86 Cubelic, John	6-0/201	So.	Birmingham, AL
3 Dunn, Robert	6-0/178	Sr.	Augusta, GA
13 Hawthorne, Tim	6-3/209	So.	Birmingham, AL
21 Olatunji, Charles	6-2/197	Sr.	Lilburn, GA
85 Padgett, Nick	5-7/173	So.	Houston, TX
89 Shaw, Zack	6-2/203	Fr.	Montgomery, AL
23 Slaughter, Chris	6-3/179	So.	Fort Valley, GA
80 Smith, Rodgeriqu	6-0/196	Sr.	Snellville, GA
16 Swinton, James	6-0/178	Sr.	Tucker, GA
14 Zachery, Terrell	6-1/205	So.	Wadley, AL

TIGHT ENDS

97 Burse, Ryan	6-1/220	Fr.	Prattville, AL
38 Clifton, Robert	6-2/238	So.	Augusta, GA

83 McKenzie, Gabe	6-4/253	Jr.	Mobile, AL
35 Slusher, Brent	6-3/231	So.	Pineville, KY
5 Trott, Tommy	6-5/251	Jr.	Montgomery, AL
48 Woods, Bailey	6-6/229	Fr.	Marietta, GA

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

66 Berry, Mike	6-3/313	So.	Antioch, TN
68 Bosley, Jason	6-4/281	Sr.	Huntsville, AL
79 Cooper, Jared	6-4/297	Fr.	Brewton, AL
58 Coulahan, Kyle	6-4/309	Fr.	Pensacola, FL
53 Eddins, Bart	6-4/292	So.	Montgomery, AL
71 Green, Tyrone	6-2/307	Sr.	Pensacola, FL
57 Isom, Byron	6-3/291	So.	Jonesboro, GA
75 McCain, Andrew	6-6/300	Jr.	Birmingham, AL
69 Odom, Rudy	6-3/286	Jr.	Mandeville, LA
50 Pugh, Ryan	6-4/284	So.	Hoover, AL
76 Ramsey, Chaz	6-4/290	So.	Madison, MS
74 Tilley, Lee	6-7/318	So.	Columbus, OH
64 Timmerman, Jackson	6-0/290	Jr.	Rehoboth, AL
73 Ziemba, Lee	6-8/288	So.	Rogers, AR

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

93 Blanc, Mike	6-4/287	So.	Pompano Beach, FL
45 Carter, Antoine	6-4/253	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
98 Clayton, Zach	6-3/286	So.	Opelika, AL
52 Coleman, Antonio	6-2/250	Jr.	Mobile, AL
99 Doolittle, Tez	6-3/294	Sr.	Opelika, AL
49 Goggans, Michael	6-3/254	So.	Alexander City, AL
42 Gray, Raven	6-5/253	Jr.	Enterprise, AL
90 Greene, A.J.	6-5/269	Fr.	Brentwood, TN
94 Marks, Sen'Derrick	6-1/288	Jr.	Mobile, AL
91 Ricks, Jake	6-4/302	Jr.	Muscle Shoals, AL
41 Roseman, Darrell	6-4/270	So.	Dunedin, FL

LINEBACKERS

28 Barnes, Da'Shaun	6-2/221	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL
10 Blackmon, Tray	6-0/220	Jr.	LaGrange, GA
17 Bynes, Josh	6-2/234	So.	Lauderdale Lakes, FL
36 Christopher, Wade	6-1/216	So.	Vestavia Hills, AL

59 Evans, Chris	6-0/221	Sr.	Prichard, AL
65 Farmer, Luke	5-11/239	Fr.	Roanoke, AL
56 Harden, Courtney	6-0/237	Sr.	Leighton, AL
40 Harris, Bo	6-2/244	So.	Conyers, GA
31 Herring, Adam	6-1/224	Fr.	Springdale, AR
55 Johnson, Merrill	6-0/204	Sr.	Butler, AL
56 Shirey, Jacob	6-0/227	Jr.	Fort Payne, AL
46 Stevens, Craig	6-2/218	So.	Tallahassee, FL
57 Summerhill, Brian	6-1/211	Jr.	Acworth, GA

DEFENSIVE BACKS

37 Carr, Brett	6-2/200	Jr.	Niceville, FL
4 Etheridge, Zac	5-11/206	So.	Troy, AL
29 Flowers, Jeremy	5-10/198	Fr.	Gadsden, AL
6 McFadden, Walter	6-0/180	Jr.	Pompano Beach, FL
26 McNeil, Mike	6-2/201	So.	Mobile, AL
20 Patterson, Nicholas	5-9/174	Fr.	Decatur, AL
8 Powers, Jerraud	5-9/188	Jr.	Decatur, AL
9 Sample, Matthew	6-1/194	Fr.	Jemison, AL
2 Savage, Airon	5-11/190	Jr.	Albany, GA
43 Shrader, Blake	5-10/196	Sr.	Stevenson, AL
11 Slade, Mike	6-2/189	Fr.	Tallahassee, FL
17 Vickers, Jonathan	6-2/216	Sr.	Athens, AL
25 Williams, Ryan	5-11/204	So.	Mobile, AL

SPECIALISTS

18 Byrum, Wes (K)	6-1/220	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
63 Cherry, Rick (LS)	6-2/233	So.	Ocala, FL
82 Crofoot, Clayton (LS)	6-3/175	Jr.	Orlando, FL
85 Durst, Clinton (P)	6-2/184	Fr.	Destin, FL
61 Harris, Josh (LS)	6-1/222	Fr.	Carrollton, AL
37 Hull, Morgan (K)	6-2/187	So.	Decatur, AL
60 Shiver, Robert (LS)	6-3/220	Sr.	Thomasville, GA
21 Shoemaker, Ryan (P)	6-0/192	So.	Birmingham, AL
23 Tatum, Patrick (P)	6-2/213	So.	Sylvania, AL

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 9-4 (5-3 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	Kansas State	W	23-13	86,439
S. 8	South Florida	L	(ot) 26-23	82,617
S. 15	Mississippi State	L	19-14	82,129
S. 22	New Mexico State	W	55-20	83,012
S. 29	at Florida	W	20-17	90,685
O. 6	Vanderbilt	W	35-7	82,657
O. 13	at Arkansas	W	9-7	72,463
O. 20	at LSU	L	30-24	92,630
O. 27	Ole Miss	W	17-3	87,451
N. 3	Tennessee Tech	W	35-3	85,754
N. 10	at Georgia	L	45-20	92,746
N. 24	Alabama	W	17-10	87,451
D. 31	#Clemson	W	(ot) 23-20	74,413

#Chick-fil-A Bowl

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brandon Cox	316	188	2,080	9	13
Kodi Burns	26	10	145	2	1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Ben Tate	202	903	4.5	8	
Brad Lester	125	530	4.2	3	
Mario Fannin	84	448	5.3	5	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Rodgeriqu Smith	52	705	13.6	5	
Montez Billings	28	321	11.5	1	
Robert Dunn	19	211	11.1	2	
Mario Fannin	18	176	9.8	2	

Kicking: Wes Byrum, 17-23 FGs, 33-34 XPs, 86 points

Tackles: Josh Thompson, 67; Zac Etheridge, 65

Sacks: Antonio Coleman, 8.5

Interceptions: Two players tied with 4

Returning Players in Bold

outside. Stevens started eight games as a redshirt freshman in 2007. Last year, Muschamp often went with an extra defensive back or two at the expense of having three linebackers on the field. Rhoads may have a different, more traditional, approach.

DEFENSIVE BACKS This is the position that Rhoads coaches, so the defensive backs will be under scrutiny. If Rhoads' no-nonsense practices are any indication, that's a lot of scrutiny. He has already made one change, moving Aairon Savage from safety to cornerback. Safety Zac Etheridge had 65 tackles and cornerback Jerraud Powers had 63 last year, each just missing the team lead. Powers added four interceptions. The other projected starter in the secondary is free safety Mike McNeil, a sophomore who played in 13 games and recorded 35 tackles in 2007.

SPECIALISTS Wes Byrum kicked 17 field goals as a true freshman last season, including a memorable last-second do-over that beat Florida in the Swamp, proving Tuberville's contention that nothing rattles his kicker. He'll be back for more cold-blooded kicks, as will punter Ryan Shoemaker, who averaged 42.4 yards per punt. Robert Dunn is back to return punts. Davis, who will have to fight for carries in the backfield, will have plenty of opportunities to touch the ball as a return specialist.

ANTONIO COLEMAN



SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP AUBURN "They have good guys on staff, and they understand what (Tommy) Tuberville wants. They don't deviate from that much, and Tub is a defensive guy too. They always have good talent, and they don't outsmart themselves. ... I don't think Auburn always gets the biggest, prettiest guys like LSU does, but what they do is a great job of evaluating. They get really fast football players. ... (Quarterback) Kodi Burns is a good player, but in this league, it will be more than just dropping back and making zone reads. ... Their talent level is very high. They have some excellent players, especially on the lines, offensive and defensive. They reload every year. ... Tuberville is very underrated. I like him. He is not a big blowhard. He says, 'Hey, this is how we run our program. This is what we are going to do.' And he does it. They have done a fantastic job. I don't think he gets enough credit. ... (On the offensive transition) You look at it say, 'We are good right now with a conventional offense, just plugging away. But we need to find a way to get some easy touchdowns, and we will be a whole lot better.' There is validity to that thinking. You make people match up with you. But there is a little bit of a danger in making a transition. You have to be able to deal with some growing pains."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Spread success Veteran coach Tommy Tuberville says the Tigers' new spread offense is already paying dividends. "The last couple of years we haven't been able to recruit those skill players because we've been known as a running football team, which is fine, and we're still going to be doing that." But the spread has opened up the player pool. "We've got people calling us. All the coaches who have been with us are saying, 'Have you seen anything like it?'"

Immediate results Offensive coordinator Tony Franklin, who was hired away from Troy in December, had only nine practices to install his spread offense before the bowl game. He installed it, all right. Auburn beat Clemson in the Chick-fil-A Bowl with a season-best offensive output. "We averaged 56 plays a game during the regular season, and we ran 93 in the bowl game, so we were able to get a lot more reps and give our players a few more chances," Tuberville says.

Bad breaks Running back Tristan Davis has been one of the unluckiest players around. The speedster missed the early part of last season with a broken toe, broke his foot after two plays in his first game and appeared in only three games all year. So will this be a new season? Not yet. He hurt the same foot in spring practice.

Welcome back Defensive tackle Tez Doolittle doesn't have many career tackles, but the former high-profile recruit is getting a bonus year to add to his total. The NCAA granted him a sixth year of eligibility after he missed last season with a torn Achilles' tendon.

Rocky Top return Linebacker Da'Shaun Barnes should feel at home when Auburn plays Tennessee. He signed with the Vols out of high school but didn't make the cut academically. After getting his grades in order, Tennessee didn't show much interest, so he opted for Auburn. "No hard feelings. It's just something that happened," Barnes says.

Big back Move over Fridge. Here comes Mike Berry. Auburn's 6'3", 313-pound offensive tackle lined up in the backfield in Auburn's final spring scrimmage. He didn't get the ball.

Winners Auburn will be looking to build on its national success. The Tigers have the fifth-best record in the country over the last four years at 42-9.

Coleman: Sam Jordan

2008 SIGNEES

Tommy Tuberville did what he does best in recruiting on Signing Day: He welcomed more defensive linemen to the fold. And it's a good thing, because he needed them. Auburn must replace three mainstays on the D-line, and though they have some depth, the Tigers may be willing to give some of the six new defensive linemen a shot to play right away.

Tuberville certainly gave most everybody a shot last year when the Tigers played a whopping 15 true freshmen after playing only two rookies the year before. Is this a new Tommy Tuberville? The latest crop of newcomers certainly hopes so. One who could be an instant starter is junior college transfer Chris Todd, who happens to be a quarterback well-versed in the Tigers' new spread attack.

Another who will surely get the call is defensive lineman Raven Gray, considered one of the top junior college players in the country last year. The Tigers liked him so much that they have signed him twice — once in 2006 and once this past December. This time he'll stick. Gray arrived in January to rehab a knee. He figures to be ready when Auburn opens the season.

The Tigers also loaded up on defensive backs, which they need for depth, and wide receivers, which they need to run the new spread offense. Offensive coordinator Tony Franklin says he needs 10 wide receivers; look for several of the freshmen to play right away.

While Franklin wants wide receivers, Tuberville wants defensive linemen. In addition to Gray, he added three more good ones in Jomarcus Savage from Alabama, Freddie Smooth from Louisiana and Andre Wadley from Mississippi.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Backs.....	6
Defensive Linemen.....	6
Wide Receivers	4
Quarterbacks	3
Linebackers	2
Running Backs	2
Tight Ends.....	2
Athletes	1
Offensive Linemen	1
Long Snappers	1

BY STATE

Florida	11
Alabama	9
Georgia.....	3
Mississippi	3
Louisiana	1
Kansas	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

CHRIS TODD • QB • ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

Chris Todd is a newcomer to Auburn, but he's thrown more college passes than all of Auburn's other quarterbacks combined. That's the benefit of signing with Texas Tech out of high school, and, though he barely played during his two years in Lubbock, he still got to wing it around. Alas, Todd saw that he wasn't going to start for the Red Raiders way back when, but he might start for Auburn.

His curious route to being reunited with offensive coordinator Tony Franklin was long indeed. They first met when Todd was a prep quarterback in Kentucky and Franklin was consulting high schools. Now, after one major college, one junior college and one commitment to another school, Todd has found Franklin again.

Todd says Franklin can be tough on quarterbacks, but it's a tough love that can be appreciated. After one season at Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College, Todd committed to Troy to play for Franklin but switched his allegiances to Auburn when the Tigers hired Franklin to run their offense back in December.

So does all of this mean that Todd has an edge over sophomore Kodi Burns? "The only thing in making that decision is: Who's going to win?" Franklin says.

DARVIN ADAMS	WR	6'2"	178	KENNESAW, GA
Ranked No. 23 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com.				
HARRY ADAMS	WR	6'0"	180	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Won Class 4A track titles in 100-meter (10.31) and 200-meter (21.03).				
KEN ADAMS	TE	6'5"	215	ENTERPRISE, AL
Ranked No. 63 tight end in nation by Scout.com.				
DASHAUN BARNES	LB	6'2"	230	TALLAHASSEE, FL
Named second-team all-state by FSWA. Ranked No. 30 safety in nation by Scout.com.				
T'SHARVAN BELL	DB	6'1"	175	KISSIMMEE, FL
Recorded 17 total TDs on offense; seven INTs and two defensive TDs as senior.				
DREW COLE	DB	6'0"	180	PICAYUNE, MS
Named first-team Class 4A All-State. Recorded 60 tackles and five INTs in '07.				
DAX DELLENBACH	LS	6'1"	210	COCONUT CREEK, FL
Ranked No. 19 long snapper in nation by Chris Sailer Kicking.				
DERON FURR	QB	6'3"	217	COLUMBUS, GA
Named Class AAA Offensive Player of the Year by <i>Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> .				
RAVEN GRAY	DL	6'5"	263	WESSON, MS
Transfer from Copiah-Lincoln CC. Ranked No. 3 JUCO prospect by Rivals.com.				
CAMERON HENDERSON	DL	6'6"	215	IRONDALE, AL
Ranked No. 9 end in nation by Rivals.com. Recorded 90 tackles in '07.				
D'ANTOINE HOOD	DB	5'9"	185	PHENIX CITY, AL
Ranked No. 62 cornerback in country by Rivals.com. Had two INTs as a senior.				
REGGIE HUNT	RB	5'10"	185	DAPHNE, AL
Had 72 carries for 1,009 yards (14.0 ypc) and 12 TDs as a junior.				
MARCUS JEMISON	DB	6'2"	190	MCCALLA, AL
Ranked No. 36 athlete in nation by Rivals.com. Had six INTs as a junior.				
JERMAINE JOHNSON	OL	6'6"	300	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Ranked No. 1 prep offensive lineman and No. 2 overall prep prospect by Rivals.com.				
NEIKO LIPSCOMB	DB	6'1"	170	TUCKER, GA
Ranked No. 11 cornerback by Scout.com. Named an Under Armour All-American.				
DERRICK LYKES	DL	6'4"	276	CLANTON, AL
Had 75 tackles, eight sacks and two defensive TDs as a junior.				
ONTARIO MCALEBB	ATH	6'0"	170	FT. MEADE, FL
Rushed for 1,995 yards and 27 TDs as senior; 1,500 yards and 25 TDs as junior.				
PHILIP PIERRE-LOUIS	WR	5'9"	165	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Named first-team Class 5A All-State. Won state title with St. Thomas Aquinas.				
SPENCER PYBUS	LB	6'1"	200	DOTHAN, AL
Recorded 146 tackles, five sacks, three INTs and two defensive TDs as a senior.				
JOMARCUS SAVAGE	DL	6'3"	270	HUNTSVILLE, AL
Registered 76 tackles, 24 tackles for a loss and 12 sacks as a senior.				
ERIC SMITH	RB	5'11"	225	SEFFNER, FL
Ranked No. 4 FB in nation by Rivals.com and No. 15 RB by Scouts, Inc.				
VANCE SMITH	TE	6'2"	240	PACE, FL
Ranked No. 36 tight end in country by Scout.com.				
FREDDIE SMOOTH	DL	6'5"	305	BATON ROUGE, LA
Ranked No. 19 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com.				
CHRISTIAN THOMPSON	DB	6'1"	195	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
Named second-team Class 5A All-State. Ranked No. 23 safety by Scout.com.				
CHRIS TODD	QB	6'2"	220	ELIZABETHTOWN, KY
Transfer from Hutchinson (KS) CC. Spent two seasons at Texas Tech.				
BARRETT TROTTER	QB	6'1"	192	BIRMINGHAM, AL
Named Mr. Football Class 5A Back of the Year.				
ANDRE WADLEY	DL	6'3"	265	HERNANDO, MS
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Mississippi by SuperPrep.				
DEREK WINTER	WR	6'0"	190	TAMPA, FL
Named first-team Class 4A All-State. Had 1,668 yards and 18 TDs as a senior.				



HEAD COACH: LES MILES **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 34-6 (3 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 62-27 (7 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: GARY CROWTON **CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS:** DOUG MALLORY, BRADLEY DALE PEVETO
 BATON ROUGE, LA. TIGER STADIUM (92,400)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE TIGERS

What's next for LSU? With a rocky SEC road slate and major holes at a few positions, it's hard to imagine the Tigers delivering another title after the 2007 national championship season. But that's what one of the most rabid fan bases in the country expects. How can LSU come anywhere close to duplicating an SEC championship campaign that was the impetus to a spot in the BCS National Championship Game? A better offense might be a good place to start. Although the Tigers will work with a new starting quarterback, they have a veteran offensive line and are stacked at running back and wide receiver. LSU also has one of the country's top tight ends in **Richard Dickson**. LSU generated 439.4 total yards and 38.6 points per game last season and may need to increase those numbers with a potentially wobbly defense that must replace All-America nose-tackle Glenn Dorsey, two linebackers and both corners. Reaching double digits in the victory column has become the standing goal under **Les Miles** (34-6 in three seasons), but a road schedule that includes junkets to Auburn, Florida, South Carolina and Arkansas may make eight or nine wins more realistic. A New Year's Day bowl would be a nice finish, but don't expect the Tigers to be in the national title hunt.



HERMAN JOHNSON

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Appalachian State	W
S. 6	Troy	W
S. 13	North Texas	W
S. 20	at Auburn	*
S. 27	Mississippi State	W
O. 11	at Florida	*
O. 18	at South Carolina	W
O. 25	Georgia	*
N. 1	Tulane	W
N. 8	Alabama	W
N. 22	Ole Miss	W
N. 28	#Arkansas	W
	#Little Rock, AR	

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

NATIONAL
FORECAST

9

TIGERS

LSU
Tigers

SEC WEST
PREDICTION

2

Lead an SEC team to three seasons of 11 or 12 victories, win a championship in the country's toughest league and add the crown jewel with a BCS national championship. Oh, and for good measure, publicly spurn the overtures of the winningest program in college football history that also happens to be your alma mater.

That's what Les Miles has accomplished in three years as the LSU football coach, and now he enters the next phase of his Tiger tenure with a still-loaded roster at some spots, but big question marks at other positions.

"There's no question that when you have a team that has won something and accomplished a goal as visible as what we did, you have to recognize everybody is going to focus on that more than anything else," says Miles, 34-6 in three seasons in Baton Rouge.

"But we have some issues to address now before we can talk about being a good football team again. We have enough young guys who have to step up and play better, and those are guys who have been here and understand how we accomplished what we did last year. They want to repeat that, so there's no feeling that we have arrived. We all know that we have work to do."

LSU lost 13 starters from a 12-2 team that rolled past Ohio State 38-24 in the BCS National Championship Game. Yet the Tigers may be deeper and more talented than any team Miles has fielded since he came to LSU, with spirited battles for playing time at running back and along the defensive line.

There are some challenges to address, though. Specifically, LSU opens the 2008 campaign with a new quarterback and two new cornerbacks in a conference that doesn't allow for on-the-job training. For some added spice, the quarterback-to-be ran afoul of Miles almost immediately after the team returned from claiming the national crown and was suspended for all of spring practice.

Despite the looming questions and a rugged road schedule, Miles enters his first season as a reigning national champion coach loaded with optimism.

"We went into last year with less of an identity than we've got now," he says. "We're a pretty talented football team that has the potential to be very good again. We're certainly a work in progress, but we have as strong a foundation as we could want to build from."

QUARTERBACKS What could be a major strength for the Tigers may also be the team's most potentially harmful question mark. Junior Ryan Perrilloux, the MVP of the SEC title game, missed the first mandatory team meeting after LSU's victory against Ohio State and was late or skipped some other classes and workouts. As a result, Miles suspended Perrilloux for the entire spring. Only Miles knows how short a leash the talented 6'3", 222-pound quarter is on, but if Perrilloux runs into more trouble, the Tigers will likely turn Gary Crowton's complex and often explosive offense over to redshirt freshman Jarrett Lee or former Harvard signal-caller Andrew Hatch. If that happens, the LSU veterans at running back and receiver will likely be leaned on more than usual for high-impact plays.

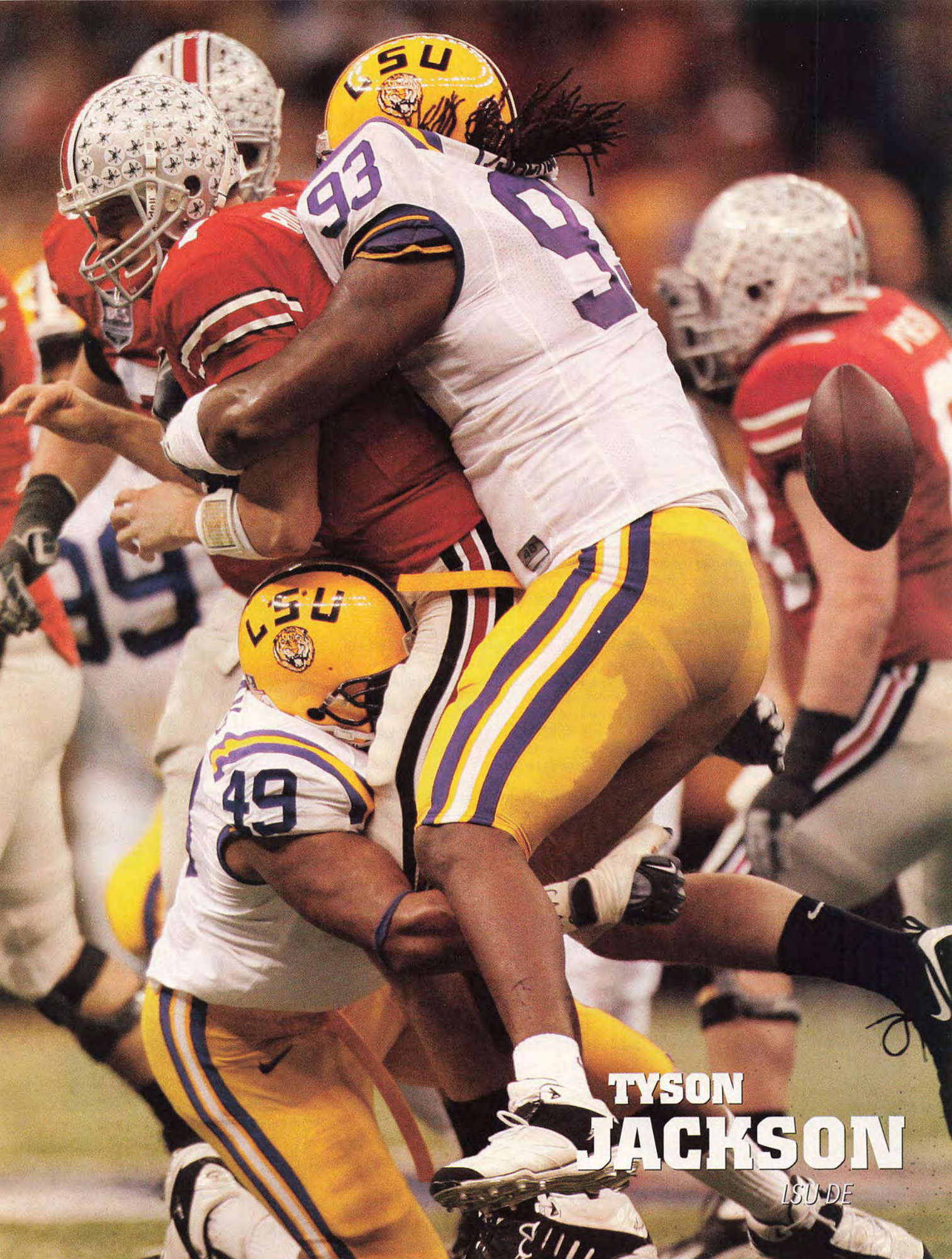
RUNNING BACKS The Tigers' talent level is as deep here as any team in the country. Keiland Williams (478 rushing yards, 6 TDs), Charles Scott (439 total yards, 7 TDs) and Richard Murphy (304 total yards, 2 TDs) all provided flashes last year of how explosive they can be, each with a touchdown run of 50 yards or longer. Crowton tailors his offense to fit backs on a play-by-play basis, but he and Miles want one of the three to carve a niche as the go-to back, particularly in tough yardage situations. All three will figure prominently in the Tigers' running game, which may carry more of the load if an untested quarterback winds up under center. World-class sprinter Trindon Holliday gives LSU an added dimension. Often the smallest player on the field at 5'5" and 159 pounds, and almost always the fastest, Holliday zipped to 364 rushing yards last season, mostly on misdirection plays and reverses.

RECEIVERS Long and lanky Brandon LaFell and lightning-fast home run threat Demetrius Byrd give LSU one of the best receiver tandems in the country after they combined for 85 catches, 1,277 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2007. Those two supply the LSU offense with the kind of reliable pass-catchers who make it impossible for defenses to clamp down on either side of the field. Sophomore

36

Although the LSU defense was more susceptible to allowing yards than in the past, the Tigers compensated by forcing 36 turnovers, third-most in the nation.

LSU
tigers



**TYSON
JACKSON**

LSU DE

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	2	Demetrius Byrd (Sr.)	80	Terrance Toliver (So.)
WR	1	Brandon LaFell (Jr.)		DeAngelo Benton (Fr.)
LT	70	Ciron Black (Jr.)	76	Jarvis Jones (So.)
LG	79	Herman Johnson (Sr.)	94	Will Blackwell (Fr.)
C	74	Brett Helms (Sr.)	63	Ryan Miller (Sr.)
RG	65	Lyle Hitt (Jr.)	68	Josh Dworaczky (Fr.)
RT	78	Joe Barksdale (So.)	77	Ernest McCoy (Fr.)
TE	18	Richard Dickson (Jr.)	83	Mitch Joseph (Fr.)
QB	11	Ryan Perrilloux (Jr.)	12	Jarrett Lee (Fr.)
FB	45	Quinn Johnson (Sr.)	34	Stevan Ridley (Fr.)
RB	5	Keiland Williams (Jr.)	26	Richard Murphy (So.)

DEFENSE (4)

DE	49	Kirston Pittman (Sr.)	84	Rahim Alem (Jr.)
DT	99	Marlon Favorite (Sr.)	92	Drake Nevis (So.)
DT	90	Ricky Jean-Francois (Jr.)	91	Charles Alexander (Sr.)
DE	93	Tyson Jackson (Sr.)	47	Tremaine Johnson (Sr.)
LB	11	Kelvin Sheppard (So.)		Ryan Baker (Fr.)
LB	48	Darry Beckwith (Sr.)	56	Perry Riley (Jr.)
LB	54	Jacob Cutrera (Jr.)	55	Kellen Theriot (Fr.)
CB	29	Chris Hawkins (Jr.)	4	Jai Eugene (So.)
CB		Patrick Johnson (Fr.)		Brandon Taylor (Fr.)
SS	3	Chad Jones (So.)	24	Harry Coleman (Jr.)
FS	27	Curtis Taylor (Sr.)	44	Danny McCray (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	6	Colt David (Sr.)	KR	8	Trindon Holliday (Jr.)
P	38	Brady Dalfrey (Sr.)	PR	3	Chad Jones (So.)

Terrance Toliver is the next emerging star, and at 6'5" and 180 pounds he draws comparisons to NFL star Randy Moss. Toliver led the Tigers with 24.9 yards per catch last season and could benefit from the threat posed by Byrd and LaFell. Tight end Richard Dickson (32-375 receiving, 5 TD) is cut from the same hybrid cloth of Jeremy Shockey and seems to catch anything thrown in his general vicinity — especially over the middle. "We've got so many weapons. We have some time for Coach Crowton to develop the offense and allow the younger quarterbacks a chance to step in and not have to make a bunch of plays," LaFell says. "As long as we're not turning the ball over, we're going to move it and put some points on the scoreboard."



OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Four starters are back from one of the bigger, and now most experienced, front walls in the SEC. Center Brett Helms, left tackle Ciron Black and left guard Herman Johnson are All-SEC-caliber earth movers who adapted perfectly to Crowton's multi-faceted offense in 2007. With more uncertainty at quarterback, and perhaps a less traditional running game,

the line will have to be steady and remain healthy. While depth is there for LSU up front, it is young and untested depth for the most part. As vital as the veteran skill-position crew is to the offense's success, this group may be the difference between a good season and a great one.



DEFENSIVE LINEMEN There is a bottleneck of talent among the defensive front four. Tyson Jackson and Kirston Pittman are both returning starters at the end spots and will get pushed by Rahim Alem and Ricky Jean-Francois, the defensive MVP of the national championship game. On the interior, Jean-Francois, Marlon Favorite and a healthy Charles Alexander are the vets, with up-and-comers Al Woods and Drake Nevis poised to log significant time. Opposing offenses might be tempted to see how easily they can soften the Tigers' front wall with All-American Glenn Dorsey gone, but the returning talent and depth may prove to be just as stingy.

MARLON FAVORITE



LINEBACKERS This is where the LSU defense starts to show signs of inexperience. Gritty middle linebacker Darry Beckwith is the only starter back, and he's a good foundation to build on after recording 65 tackles in 12 games — the last few with a bum shoulder. On Beckwith's flanks, junior Perry Riley and sophomore Kelvin Sheppard are possible replacements, with junior Jacob Cutrera also in the mix if he can stay healthy after missing time in 2007 and most of the spring with a shoulder injury.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Three-quarters of LSU's secondary will be new, but not all of the players vying for time will be inexperienced. Free safety Curtis Taylor is the only starter back, but nickel back Danny McCray also returns, along with big-time playmakers Chad Jones and Harry Coleman. Jones helped spur LSU's 41-34 comeback victory at Alabama with a sack and forced fumble, and Coleman entered the BCS

KEY TIGERS

Brett Helms, C Underrated veteran makes audible calls for the Tigers' offensive line.

Richard Dickson, TE Provides a reliable security blanket for LSU quarterbacks after catching 32 passes for 375 yards and five TDs last season.

Demetrius Byrd, WR Tigers' home run threat in the passing game after snaring 35 passes for 621 yards and seven scores in 2007.

Tyson Jackson, DE Quiet but menacing pass rusher should be among the best defensive linemen in the nation.

Darry Beckwith, MLB Veteran of line-backing corps will be asked to clean up a lot more with new starters on either side.



KEY LOSSES

Matt Flynn, QB Steady leader provided 2,622 total yards and 25 TDs in 12 games.

Jacob Hester, RB Nobody ran harder or carved out tougher yards. Had 1,103 rushing yards and 12 TDs.

Glenn Dorsey, NT Latest version of everybody's All-American was dominant when healthy and very good when not.

Ali Highsmith, WLB Recorded 101 tackles and rarely let a ball-carrier get away for a big running play.

Chevis Jackson, CB Took away half the field with 16 pass breakups and five interceptions.

RISEING STAR

Thrust into action in the BCS Championship Game when starting strong safety Craig Steltz was hurt, 6'2", 205-pound **Harry Coleman** returned a fumble for 14 yards to squash an Ohio State drive. Now Coleman is vying for the starting job vacated by Steltz and could step in as the same kind of hard-hitting playmaker the Tigers need at that spot.





2008 LSU ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
14	Hatch, Andrew	6-3/214	Jr.	Henderson, NV		
12	Lee, Jarrett	6-2/190	Fr.	Brenham, TX		
17	McCartney, T.C.	6-3/202	Fr.	Boulder, CO		
16	Scioueaux, Rodney	6-4/225	So.	McKinney, TX		
RUNNING BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
35	Baniecki, Chad	6-1/223	Sr.	Seton, AZ		
8	Holliday, Trindon	5-5/159	Jr.	Zachary, LA		
45	Johnson, Quinn	6-2/238	Sr.	Edgard, LA		
24	Lipoma, Patrick	5-5/165	Jr.	Prairieville, LA		
27	Mangin, August	5-11/185	Jr.	Lewisville, TX		
26	Murphy, Richard	6-1/198	So.	Rayville, LA		
43	Nichols, Blake	6-0/230	So.	Metairie, LA		
37	Pigott, Phillip	5-11/200	Sr.	Pearl River, LA		
34	Ridley, Stevan	5-11/209	Fr.	Natchez, MS		
32	Scott, Charles	5-11/221	Jr.	Saline, LA		
5	Williams, Keiland	5-11/223	Jr.	Lafayette, LA		
RECEIVERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
22	Bunting, Jeremy	5-10/180	Sr.	Tioga, LA		
2	Byrd, Demetrius	6-2/195	Sr.	Miami, FL		
10	Dixon, Ricky	6-2/216	So.	LaPlace, LA		
42	Gillen, R.J.	6-0/187	Fr.	Memphis, TN		
25	Glaser, Brady	5-11/191	Fr.	Dry Creek, LA		
84	Graff, Daniel	6-0/181	So.	Metairie, LA		
88	Harding, Ian	6-1/196	Fr.	New Orleans, LA		
28	Jackson, R.J.	6-0/209	Jr.	Houston, TX		
1	LaFell, Brandon	6-3/194	Jr.	Houston, TX		
29	LeDay, Quentin	6-1/187	Sr.	Opelousas, LA		
33	McClure, Adam	6-1/190	So.	Baton Rouge, LA		
86	Mitchell, Chris	6-0/176	Jr.	Marrero, LA		
87	Mitchell, Jared	5-11/192	Jr.	New Iberia, LA		
13	Newell, Jordan	5-10/175	Jr.	Homer, LA		
80	Toliver, Terrance	6-5/180	So.	Hempstead, TX		
TIGHT ENDS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
40	Angelle, Caleb	6-4/245	Sr.	Breaux Bridge, LA		
41	Corbin, Jordon	6-4/240	Fr.	Lakeland, FL		
18	Dickson, Richard	6-3/237	Jr.	Ocean Springs, MS		
83	Joseph, Mitch	6-5/243	Fr.	New Iberia, LA		
85	Russian, Alex	6-4/230	Fr.	Round Rock, TX		
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
64	Allen, Matt	6-3/285	So.	Spring, TX		
78	Barksdale, Joseph	6-6/315	So.	Detroit, MI		
70	Black, Ciron	6-5/314	Jr.	Tyler, TX		
94	Blackwell, Will	6-4/293	Fr.	West Monroe, LA		
57	Dugas, Richard	6-0/250	So.	Lincoln, NE		
68	Dworaczyk, Josh	6-6/275	Fr.	New Iberia, LA		
53	Hebert, T-Bob	6-3/260	Fr.	Norcross, GA		
74	Helms, Brett	6-2/283	Sr.	Stuttgart, AR		
61	Helms, Trey	6-4/261	Fr.	Stuttgart, AR		
65	Hitt, Lyle	6-2/284	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA		
66	Holmes, Max	6-4/281	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA		
79	Johnson, Herman	6-7/351	Sr.	Olla, LA		
76	Jones, Jarvis	6-6/265	So.	Rosenburg, TX		
77	McCoy, Ernest	6-5/333	Fr.	Belle Glade, FL		
63	Miller, Ryan	6-6/318	Sr.	Lake Charles, LA		
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
84	Alem, Rahim	6-3/252	Jr.	New Orleans, LA		
91	Alexander, Charles	6-3/294	Sr.	Breaux Bridge, LA		
96	Aubrey, Kentravis	6-3/285	Fr.	Bastrop, LA		
98	Corley, Sidell	6-4/270	Fr.	Mobile, AL		
99	Favorite, Marlon	6-1/295	Sr.	Harvey, LA		
88	Hains, Donald	5-11/243	Sr.	Diamondhead, MI		
93	Jackson, Tyson	6-5/292	Sr.	Edgard, LA		
90	Jean-Francois, Ricky	6-3/281	Jr.	Miami, FL		
47	Johnson, Tremaine	6-2/273	Sr.	Galena Park, TX		
95	Levingston, Lazarius	6-4/258	So.	Ruston, LA		
92	Nevis, Drake	6-1/285	So.	Marrero, LA		
49	Pittman, Kirston	6-4/254	Sr.	Garyville, LA		
97	Woods, Al	6-4/314	Jr.	Elton, LA		
LINEBACKERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
48	Beckwith, Darry	6-1/232	Sr.	Baton Rouge, LA		
58	Cesar, Dominique	6-0/195	Jr.	Topeka, KS		
17	Clemons, Shomari	6-2/220	Fr.	West Monroe, LA		
54	Cutrer, Jacob	6-4/227	Jr.	Lafayette, LA		
37	Felio, Paul	6-0/221	Fr.	League City, TX		
52	Foyil, Ace	6-3/229	Jr.	Madisonville, LA		
51	Midulla, Zach	5-11/200	So.	Brandon, FL		
53	Nixon, Jonathan	6-0/218	So.	N. Little Rock, AR		
56	Riley, Perry	6-1/220	Jr.	Ellenwood, GA		
11	Sheppard, Kelvin	6-3/228	So.	Stone Mountain, GA		
43	Smith, Lydell	5-10/208	Fr.	Shreveport, LA		
55	Theriot, Kellen	6-1/225	Fr.	Houston, TX		
DEFENSIVE BACKS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
33	Andrus, Tyson	6-0/170	Jr.	Lafayette, LA		
13	Brooks, Ron	5-11/180	Fr.	Irving, TX		
24	Coleman, Harry	6-2/205	Jr.	Baldwin, LA		
4	Eugene, Jai	5-11/184	So.	St. Rose, LA		
23	Francois, Stefoin	6-1/200	Fr.	Reserve, LA		
22	Gunn, Orlando	5-7/179	Fr.	Harker Heights, TX		
29	Hawkins, Chris	6-1/181	Jr.	Walker, LA		
35	Hickman, Darryl	5-9/157	Jr.	Slidell, LA		
36	Impastato, David	6-0/200	Jr.	River Ridge, LA		
3	Jones, Chad	6-3/222	So.	Baton Rouge, LA		
42	Jones, Harry	6-2/200	Sr.	Houston, TX		
25	Jones, Phelon	5-11/195	Fr.	Mobile, AL		
28	Maltempi, Joe	5-8/172	Jr.	Chester, VA		
44	McCray, Danny	6-1/205	Jr.	Houston, TX		
5	Moody, Chad	5-10/187	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA		
27	Taylor, Curtis	6-3/204	Sr.	Franklinton, LA		
31	Williams, John	5-11/175	Fr.	Breaux Bridge, LA		
41	Williams, Tasmin	5-9/175	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA		
SPECIALISTS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
3	Alleman, Drew (K/P)	6-0/172	Fr.	Lafayette, LA		
50	Crappell, Joey (LS)	6-2/214	Fr.	Patterson, LA		
39	Crutchfield, Andrew (K)	6-1/190	So.	Concord, NC		
38	Dalfrey, Brady (P)	6-0/207	Sr.	Carencro, LA		
6	David, Colt (K)	5-9/175	Sr.	Grapevine, TX		
31	Graham, Josh (K)	5-11/185	Jr.	Covington, LA		
98	Hebert, Trent (K)	5-9/181	Fr.	Cecilia, LA		
30	Jasper, Josh (K/P)	6-0/165	So.	Memphis, TN		

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 12-2 (4-2 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
A. 30	at Mississippi State	W	45-0	50,112
S. 8	Virginia Tech	W	48-7	92,739
S. 15	Middle Tennessee	W	44-0	92,407
S. 22	South Carolina	W	28-16	92,530
S. 29	at Tulane	W	34-9	58,769
O. 6	Florida	W	28-24	92,910
O. 13	at Kentucky	L	(ot) 43-37	70,902
O. 20	Auburn	W	30-24	92,630
N. 3	at Alabama	W	41-34	92,138
N. 10	Louisiana Tech	W	58-10	92,512
N. 17	at Ole Miss	W	41-24	61,118
N. 23	Arkansas	L	(ot) 50-48	92,606
D. 1	Tennessee	W	21-14	73,832
J. 7	#Ohio State	W	38-24	79,651
#BCS Championship				

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Flynn	359	202	2,407	21	11
Ryan Perrilloux	75	51	694	8	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jacob Hester	225	1,103	4.9	12	
Keiland Williams	70	478	6.8	6	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Early Doucet	57	525	9.2	5	
Brandon LaFell	50	656	13.1	4	
Demetrius Byrd	35	621	17.7	7	
Richard Dickson	32	375	11.7	5	

Kicking: Colt David, 26-33 FGs, 63-63 XPs, 147 points
 Tackles: Craig Steltz, 101; Ali Highsmith, 101
 Sacks: Kirston Pittman, 7.5
 Interceptions: Craig Steltz, 6

Returning Players in Bold

game when Craig Steltz was hurt and delivered a huge performance. Junior Chris Hawkins and high-strung sophomore Jai Eugene will battle for time at cornerbacks, a position that looks to be the Tigers' weakest link heading into the season. Taylor's younger brother Brandon, Patrick Johnson and Ryan St. Julien — all incoming freshmen — should also factor into the mix at cornerback.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Colt David piled up 147 points in 14 games, connecting on 26-of-33 field goals and not missing an extra point in 63 tries. He gives LSU a reliable weapon. Drew Alleman is expected to handle the kickoff duties. Senior Brady Dalfrey will likely take over as the punter for All-SEC performer Patrick Fisher. In the return game, Holliday, Williams and Jones will share the ball, depending on whose hands prove to be the steadiest.

DARRY BECKWITH



SCOUTING THE TIGERS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP LSU "They have the best talent, and I would say that Auburn is second. LSU will always pass the look test. LSU will have the prettiest son-of-a-guns. ... On paper you just look at the Rivals.com rankings, and the recruiting guru rankings. They are far above anyone else. ... The quarterback situation could be a problem, with Ryan Perrilloux getting into trouble. The quarterback is the leader. If the guy's getting in trouble all the time, as a player, how can you respect him to lead your team? That's a huge negative — unless he changes his stripes and conforms to what the coaches want and becomes a good citizen and goes to school and gets the degree. But he's trouble. He's there for the wrong reasons. The kid played awesome in the SEC Championship Game. He got them to the national championship game. He will be a thorn in their side unless he wholeheartedly changes and buys into being a good citizen and doing the right things. When he's continually messing up like that ... it's a problem."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

Clash of the champions LSU opens the 2008 season against the only team that has claimed more national championships this decade than the Tigers. Appalachian State visits Baton Rouge on Aug. 30, and the Mountaineers open their season with three consecutive national crowns in tow — in the Football Championship Subdivision, formerly known as Division I-AA. ASU made a national splash last season by claiming a 34–32 victory at Michigan to start the season. This is the Mountaineers' second trip to Tiger Stadium. In 2005 they lost to LSU 24–0 but bounced back to claim the first of three-straight national titles.

Two times, not bad The only two starts of junior quarterback Ryan Perrilloux's career have provided a promising glimpse of what he's capable of, if he stays in Les Miles' good graces. Perrilloux started against Middle Tennessee State and Tennessee in the SEC Championship Game when starter Matt Flynn was injured. In those two outings, Perrilloux completed 40-of-55 passes for 541 yards and four touchdowns. He was voted the MVP of the SEC game.

The big and the small For the third consecutive season, LSU will have the SEC's largest player and its smallest. Guard Herman Johnson is 6'7" and weighs 351 pounds, while speedy running back Trindon Holliday is 5'5" and 159 pounds. Johnson was the largest baby ever born in Louisiana at 15 pounds, 14 ounces. No report on whether Holliday was one of the smallest.

Streaking LSU has won 10 games or more in 10 different seasons, including the last three. The Tigers' seasons of 11, 11 and 12 victories represent the best streak in program history and kept Miles as the winningest coach by percentage in program history (.850). LSU has never followed a national championship with 10 victories — winning nine games in both 1959 and 2004.

Sixth sense LSU defensive end Kirston Pittman will return for a rare sixth season after applying for and receiving special dispensation from the NCAA. Pittman led the Tigers with 12.5 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks last season, his first healthy campaign since 2004. He missed the 2005 and '06 campaigns with foot and Achilles tendon ailments but steered clear of major injuries last season. He became the first LSU player with two national championship rings — he was a freshman in 2003. "I had a chance to leave and go to the NFL, but I wanted to come back and get one more year on the field," says Pittman.

2008 SIGNEES

With two national championships in five seasons, LSU is in position to reload on an annual basis. That's exactly what the Tigers did with the 2008 class, filling needs across the board and continuing a trend of locking down the state's borders.

Of the 25-member class, 14 players came from Louisiana. The state haul was anchored by multi-talented quarterback Jordan Jefferson from St. Rose and wide receiver Chris Tolliver of Rayville — rated as the state's top prospect of 2008. Depending on the LSU quarterback situation, Jefferson will redshirt in 2008 with an eye on battling for the starting job in 2009. Tolliver may jump right into the battle for playing time at receiver.

The Tigers also lured state native DeAngelo Benton, a 2006 *Parade* Magazine All-American who starred on back-to-back Class 4A state championship teams at Bastrop, catching 40 passes for 947 yards and 15 TDs as a senior. He committed to LSU out of high school but needed a year at Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia in 2007 to get his academics in order. Rated as one of the top prep school players in the country last season, Benton signed again with LSU and will also vie for playing time in the receiver rotation.

LSU's biggest out-of-state prize is Patrick Johnson from Pompano Beach, Fla., ranked as the country's top cornerback and the No. 1 prospect in the talent-loaded Sunshine State. Regarded as a college-ready cover corner, Johnson picked the Tigers over all three in-state powers and Georgia.

Offensive line is an area LSU will need to replenish in the next few years and that was reflected in a class that includes some big bodies for the o-line. Anchored by Clay Spencer of Parkview Baptist in Baton Rouge and Greg Shaw from Miami's Monsignor Pace, the new Tiger linemen average just over 6'5" and 287 pounds.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION	BY STATE
Defensive Backs.....6	Louisiana 14
Offensive Linemen 5	Florida 4
Wide Receivers 5	Texas 4
Defensive Linemen.....3	Georgia.....2
Linebackers 3	Tennessee 1
Tight Ends.....2	
Quarterbacks 1	

SPOTLIGHT ON...

JORDAN JEFFERSON • QB • ST. ROSE, LA.

For the second time in four years, one of the country's best dual-threat quarterbacks turned in a spectacular senior season within shouting distance of Tiger Stadium. And for the second time, LSU landed the in-state stud. Now the onus is on the ultra-athletic Jefferson to live up to the billing he arrives with, and he may get the chance sooner than expected. The 2007 Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year, Jefferson passed for 2,846 yards and 24 touchdowns and was picked off only three times while leading Destrehan High School to an undefeated (15-0) Class 5A state crown. Jefferson was also 6-0 as a junior before an injury ended his season. He enrolls at LSU low on the depth chart, but there could be serious shuffling if starter-to-be Ryan Perrilloux isn't available at any point this season. After Perrilloux — the other heralded in-state quarterback — Jefferson is the closest thing to a perfect fit in offensive coordinator Gary Crowton's diverse offense. Depending on how quickly Jefferson adapts to the speed of the college game, he could emerge as the primary backup to Perrilloux this year or next with an eye on the starting job in 2009 or 2010.

CHANCY AGHAYERE	DL	6'4"	243	GARLAND, TX
Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Ranked No. 3 defensive end in country by ESPN.com. Recorded 78 tackles and 12 sacks as a senior.				
RYAN BAKER	LB	6'0"	210	GRAND RIDGE, FL
Ranked No. 6 outside linebacker in country by Rivals.com.				
DEANGELO BENTON	WR	6'3"	205	BASTROP, LA
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Named Class 4A MVP as HS senior in '06.				
MATT BRANCH	TE	6'5"	240	MONROE, LA
Ranked No. 6 tight end in nation by Rivals.com.				
DERRICK BRYANT	DB	6'0"	185	LAWRENCEVILLE, GA
Ranked No. 25 cornerback in nation and No. 28 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com.				
CHASE CLEMENT	DE	6'6"	245	THIBODAUX, LA
Named Class 3A MVP as senior. Had 96 tackles and eight forced fumbles in '07.				
ROCKEY DUPLESSIS	DB	6'1"	185	BELLE CHASSE, LA
Ranked No. 17 safety in country by ESPN.com. Recorded nine INTs as a junior.				
TYLER EDWARDS	TE	6'3"	240	MONROE, LA
Ranked No. 5 prospect in Louisiana and No. 6 tight end in nation by ESPN.com. Participated in Under Armor All-Star Game. Brother played on '03 title team.				
CORDIAN HAGANS	DL	6'5"	290	SNELLVILLE, GA
Basketball player who did not play organized football until junior year.				
KARNELL HATCHER	DB	6'2"	190	DELRAY BEACH, FL
Ranked No. 18 safety in country by Rivals.com. Had seven INTs as a sophomore.				
ALEX HURST	OL	6'5"	290	BARTLETT, TN
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by TSWA as a senior.				
JORDAN JEFFERSON	QB	6'4"	210	ST. ROSE, LA
Named Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year. Led Destrehan HS to 15-0 record and state title in '07. Passed for 2,846 yards, 24 TDs and three INTs as senior.				
PATRICK JOHNSON	CB	6'1"	175	POMPANO BEACH, FL
Named first-team All-USA and Defensive Player of the Year by <i>USA Today</i> and Class 4A-6A Player of the Year by South Florida <i>Sun-Sentinel</i> . Participated in U.S. Army All-American Bowl; named U.S. Army Junior Combine Defensive MVP. Ranked No. 1 cornerback in nation and No. 5 overall prospect by Rivals.com.				
P.J. LONERGAN	OL	6'4"	290	NEW ORLEANS, LA
Ranked No. 26 guard in nation by Scout.com. Father, Pat, played at LSU in '70s.				
TIM MOLTON	WR	6'3"	190	MONTZ, LA
Ranked No. 13 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals. Top target of fellow LSU signee, Jordan Jefferson. Had 44 catches for 912 yards and 11 TDs as a senior.				
THOMAS PARSONS	OL	6'5"	272	CANYON LAKE, TX
Named first-team all-state by TexasFootball.com as a senior.				
DEANGELO PETERSON	WR	6'3"	190	NEW ORLEANS, LA
Ranked No. 6 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals. Named first-team Class 1A in '07.				
KYLE PRATER	LB	6'1"	210	KERRVILLE, TX
Ranked No. 10 weak-side linebacker in country by Scout.com.				
GREG SHAW	OL	6'5"	285	HIALEAH, FL
Ranked No. 16 tackle in nation by ESPN.com and No. 35 prospect in Florida by Rivals.com.				
CLAY SPENCER	OL	6'6"	285	BATON ROUGE, LA
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com, No. 11 center in nation by ESPN.com.				
RYAN ST. JULIEN	DB	6'1"	170	ST. MARTINVILLE, LA
Ranked No. 20 prospect in Louisiana by Rivals.com.				
BRANDON TAYLOR	DB	6'0"	178	FRANKLINTON, LA
Ranked No. 2 prospect in Louisiana and No. 9 cornerback in nation by Rivals.com. Named Class 4A Defensive Player of the year as a senior.				
JHYRYN TAYLOR	WR	6'1"	180	FRANKLINTON, LA
Ranked No. 12 prospect in Louisiana and No. 50 athlete in nation by Rivals.com. Brother, Curtis, plays safety at LSU. Brother, Brandon, committed to LSU.				
KELLEN THERIOT	LB	6'1"	225	HOUSTON, TX
Ranked No. 44 inside linebacker in country by ESPN.com.				
CHRIS TOLLIVER	WR	6'1"	189	RAYVILLE, LA
Ranked No. 11 wide receiver in nation by ESPN.com. Had 17 TD catches in '06.				

Byrd and LaFell Enhance LSU's Receiver Tradition

by Randy Rosetta

Catching passes and making big plays for the LSU offense are two of the things Demetrius Byrd and Brandon LaFell are known for. But the Tigers' wide receiver tandem also knows a little about dancing.

Byrd endeared himself to his new teammates last August when he broke the monotony of a film session with an impromptu rendition of Michael Jackson's "Moonwalk." Ever since that day, Byrd has broken into the foot-sliding step just about any time a teammate asks.

Or head coach Les Miles, for that matter.

"Coach Miles heard about it and said he wanted to see it, so I showed him," says Byrd, who claims he also coaxed Miles into an impromptu "Walk it Out."

"He really liked it a lot."

For LaFell, the specialty is "My Dougie," a full body shimmy that apparently fits well with his football skills.

"Brandon's got this wiggle when he dances and when he's working to get open on a pass route," Byrd says. "He's pretty good at both of them."

Yep, should football not work out for Byrd or LaFell, there appears to be a fallback option as professional dancers. But it's a safe bet that neither talented LSU receiver will have to worry about anything but football in the future.

When the Tigers begin defense of their 2007 BCS National Championship in August, there will be some talent issues to address. Looking for two explosive go-to receivers isn't on that list.

Although LSU will have to replace departed senior Early Doucet, Byrd and LaFell give Miles and the Tigers offense two rock-solid pillars to build around. Doucet led the team with 57 receptions last season, but LaFell (50 catches for 656 yards) and Byrd (35 receptions for 621 yards) both had more yards.

And Byrd, a transfer last season from Pearl River (Miss.) Community College, was lightning in a bottle any time the LSU offense needed a bolt with a team-best seven touchdown receptions.

"Both guys are awfully good, and both of them improved all through last season,"

Miles says. "If Demetrius Byrd doesn't improve the way he did, we're not the team we were last year. LaFell had some rough spots, but he turned it around with good ol' hard work and practice, and that set the tone for our younger receivers. Those are two guys we expect to be go-to guys and leaders."

High expectations are something LSU receivers have learned to accept and live up to. Since 2002, eight Tigers receivers (including Doucet) have been selected in the NFL Draft.



The New WIDE RECEIVER

For LaFell and Byrd, the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately effect is palpable. Besides playing with Doucet last season, LaFell was around Dwayne Bowe and Buster Davis for two seasons. Like Bowe, Byrd grew up in Miami, playing at Central High with former LSU linebacker Ali Highsmith, Bowe's cousin.

"We're the next guys in that line, so we look at it as a great challenge," LaFell says. "To be mentioned in the same breath with those guys is something special. Those guys are legends at LSU."

Adds Byrd, "We want to be the next great receivers at LSU. In this program, you follow some



"The focus is on us now. Whether it's a pass play or a running play, we have to go out and make something happen for this offense to be as good as it was last year."

— Brandon LaFell

pretty big footsteps."

Last year provided a major step in that direction. After a slow start, Byrd emerged as the Tigers' long-ball threat and seemed to come up with a huge catch whenever LSU needed one. Through five games Byrd had seven catches for 177 yards — a robust 25.3 yards per grab. But none of those receptions had come with much sizzle. That changed dramatically, though.

- In a stirring come-from-behind 28–24 triumph against Florida on Oct. 6, Byrd helped kick-start LSU's fourth-quarter rally when he yanked down a 4-yard touchdown pass from Matt Flynn on fourth down.

- Two weeks later Byrd and Flynn connected on a heart-stopping 22-yard touchdown pass with one second on the clock in a 30–24 victory over Auburn.

- With LSU down 27–17 at Alabama, Byrd again triggered another comeback when he streaked down the sideline for a 61-yard TD catch late in the third quarter — part of a career-best 144 receiving yards.

- In the SEC Championship Game, Byrd snared a 27-yard touchdown pass from Ryan Perrilloux on 3rd-and-long to cap the first series of the third quarter. That TD gave LSU its first lead and allowed the Tigers to snatch momentum on the way to a 21–14 win.

Byrd rattles off all four plays when talking about his highlights of the 2007 season. But the Auburn catch struck a special chord.

The play was dissected and criticized for weeks because LSU needed only a field goal to go in front and was in range. Going for the risky throw into the end zone was magnified

because the clock finished at :01, but replays showed that had the pass been incomplete, there likely would have been 3–4 seconds left.

Didn't matter as far as Byrd was concerned.

"On that whole drive Auburn was playing me man-to-man, and I kept trying to get the coaches' attention," he says. "Once I did, they called a go pattern and once the ball went up, there wasn't any doubt in my mind I was going to make a play. It was coming my way and I was telling myself, 'I got to make this happen.'"

As exhilarating as the finish against Auburn was for Byrd, that was the same game when LaFell's season — and maybe his budding career — reached a crossroads.

Already plagued by drops earlier in the sea-

son, LaFell's confidence was shaky. In the third quarter, LaFell was wide open on the sideline for a potential touchdown. Flynn lofted an on-the-money pass which LaFell bobbled, turning it into an interception.

"I had to find a way to get over it," LaFell

"If you let me get behind you, it's done. Once I get past you, you can just stop and go to the sideline and talk to coaches about what happened."

— Demetrius Byrd

"We never lost confidence in Brandon, and even when I took his job in the starting lineup, we stayed tight and talked all the time," Byrd says. "He may not have known he could still make big plays for us, but the rest of us did."

Now those big plays in the passing game will fall squarely on the shoulders of LaFell and Byrd. Though they're similar in size, their skills are more complementary than identical.

LaFell has home run ability, but his strength and skills as a route-runner — the same wiggle he puts to use as a dancer — give him the ability to get open quickly for quick-hitting pass plays.

Byrd is a blazer, clocked as fast as 4.3 in the 40. He doesn't mind mixing it up inside, but is at his best when he gets a cornerback across from him who thinks he can handle Byrd all alone.

"We're different because Demetrius is very fast getting downfield, and I'm more of a big target who can catch the ball across the middle," says LaFell, regarded as LSU's best blocking receiver. "I'm fast,



RECEIVING THREATS

Eight LSU receivers have been drafted since 2002.

Year	Player	Round/Pick	Team
2002	Josh Reed	2nd/36	Buffalo
2004	Michael Clayton	1st/15	Tampa Bay
	Devery Henderson	2nd/50	New Orleans
2006	Skyler Green	4th/125	Dallas
	Bennie Brazell	7th/231	Cincinnati
2007	Dwayne Bowe	1st/23	Kansas City
	Craig Davis	1st/30	San Diego
2008	Early Doucet	3rd/81	Arizona

says. "I talked to my family and friends and just got it out of my system. I didn't want it to affect the rest of my season. I went out and caught a bunch of extra balls. When you catch so many passes, it becomes routine and you start to run before the ball reaches your hands. The main thing I needed to do better was staying focused."

While LaFell worked his way through his slump, Byrd took over in the starting lineup against Alabama. Although Byrd had the explosive performance against the Crimson Tide, LaFell wasn't completely forgotten.

After playing sparingly in the first 55 minutes, LaFell entered the game with 4:53 to go and LSU behind 34–27. Flynn rifled back-to-back passes of 19 and 14 yards to LaFell to launch a game-tying TD drive. LaFell finished with four catches for 43 yards — all in the closing moments of a 41–34 Tigers victory.

too, but I'm probably the more physical of the two because I love contact."

Adds Byrd: "We're different because he has that little wiggle and great head fakes. He does a lot of his work at the line of scrimmage. I may be the faster runner, but he's more elusive. It doesn't matter to us who catches the ball or how we do it. We have to be ready to want to get the ball and be playmakers in this offense."

And if some dancing follows, Byrd and LaFell are ready for that as well.



HEAD COACH: SYLVESTER CROOM **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 17-30 (4 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 17-30 (4 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: WOODY MCCORVEY **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** CHARLIE HARBISON
 STARKVILLE, MISS. DAVIS WADE STADIUM AT SCOTT FIELD (55,082)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

48

BULLDOGS



SEC WEST
PREDICTION

4

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sports Illustrated

Sylvester Croom will be the first to admit that he thought it would take five years for Mississippi State to turn the corner and shed its losing habits. As it turned out, he was ahead of schedule. Not that he's complaining. Eight wins and countless Coach of the Year honors later, the goal now is to continue to evolve as a program and develop into a championship contender. That's not nearly as farfetched today as it might have been a year ago.

"When I took the job, people I trusted told me, 'Don't expect to win for the first four years,'" he says. "With probation and finding the right players who wanted to be here, they said I'd have to be patient. That was hard for me to hear, because I'm not a patient person."

In 2006, the Bulldogs were close to getting back on track. The problem, though, was their inability to win the close game — four of the nine losses were by three points. In 2007, the trend fortunately reversed, as MSU finally showed the ability to win the close games.

"To me, that says you have character," Croom says. "And once you win one of those type of games, you know you can do it again when you find yourself in a similar situation."

Croom isn't quite ready to say Mississippi State is primed for a run to Atlanta. But with wins against the likes of Alabama, Auburn and Kentucky, teams that garnered bowl bids, he believes the pieces are falling into place to put this program on the right path to the championship game.

"A lot of people didn't believe," he says. "But from Day 1, I said I didn't believe in a quick fix and to do it right, you had to build from the ground up. People are starting to understand that now."

3 Of Mississippi State's four SEC wins, three were by five points or less. Of the four losses, three were by 14 or more points.

QUARTERBACKS A year ago, Wesley Carroll was expected to redshirt and serve primarily as the scout team quarterback. Of course, that all changed when injuries sidelined Michael Henig and Josh Riddell. All of a sudden, Carroll was the guy under center leading the offense. Talk about being thrust into a precarious situation. There was no time to prepare or develop. He had to learn on the go. "We weren't able to work on the little things with his mechanics because we had to get him ready for the game," Croom says. "We just didn't have time. It was all about learning the playbook." And considering the circumstances, Carroll performed pretty well. He didn't throw an interception in his first 137 passes and managed the offense to Croom's liking. When spring rolled around, the emphasis wasn't on the playbook nearly as much as it was the mechanics. "My footwork and steps had to get better," Carroll says. "As soon as the Liberty Bowl was over, those are the things I began to work on." Croom has seen the steady improvement. The key now is to avoid injuries, because backups Tyson Lee (a walk-on) and Chris Relf have never played a down of Division I-A football. Still, they are likely to see action this year as reserves in order to gain experience, a luxury Carroll wasn't afforded in 2007.

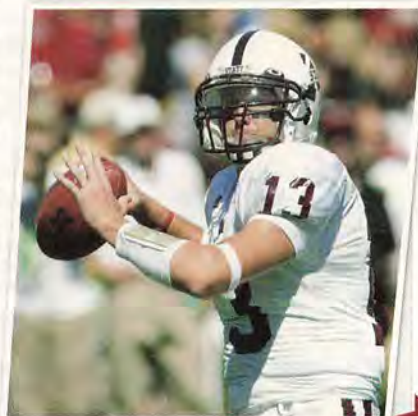
RUNNING BACKS While Mississippi State was playing musical chairs with quarterbacks early in the season, the one constant was Anthony Dixon. As a freshman, he showed signs of greatness. As a sophomore, he proved to be one of the top backs in the SEC. He also had the knack of finding the end zone, as evidenced by his 14 touchdowns. He's a workhorse indeed, and one that's tough to bring down. There were times Croom questioned his tailback's consistency, but Dixon used the criticism as motivation. And now that there's depth, Dixon knows he can't take a play off. But he won't have to carry the load. With Christian Ducre and redshirt freshman Robert Elliott around, there shouldn't be much of a drop-off. Ducre turned out to be a pleasant surprise; he rushed for 119 yards on 19 carries in State's surprisingly easy 31-14 win at Kentucky last October. Elliott's speed in the spring turned heads. He might be too good to keep off the field. The unknown in the backfield is at fullback, where Brandon Hart and Eric Hoskins are in a battle for the starting nod. Hart may hold the edge due to injuries that plagued Hoskins all spring.

RECEIVERS Gone is Tony Burks, one of the Bulldogs' top receivers the past two years. However, that doesn't mean there's no talent. Back are Jamayel Smith, Brandon McRae, Aubrey Bell and Co-Eric Riley. But it's Smith who will likely take over Burks' role as the go-to playmaker. That emergence actually began last year,

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BULLDOGS

In **Sylvester Croom's** first three years at the helm, Mississippi State managed only nine victories. In year No. 4, the Bulldogs nearly matched that total with eight. And with the momentum of the Liberty Bowl victory, this program now has something it hasn't encountered in years: expectations. The question, though, is whether MSU can match last year's magical run. Remember, three of the four SEC wins were by five points or less. That says this team was clutch in the fourth quarter. And if the Bulldogs are to duplicate that success, several factors are critical. First, the offense has to improve and consistency has to be a theme. That task was rather difficult in 2007 due to all the injuries at quarterback. However, those setbacks opened the door for **Wesley Carroll**, who started nine games, including the final eight. He became a playmaker MSU was desperately seeking and should improve with experience. Second, State has to continue to run the ball. **Anthony Dixon** established himself as one of the top backs in the SEC with 1,066 yards, and with the emergence of **Christian Ducre** and **Robert Elliott**, depth is ample. And finally, MSU must find a way to replace defensive end Titus Brown, not only for his talents, but also his leadership abilities. If the Bulldogs achieve these feats, they'll prove last year was no fluke.



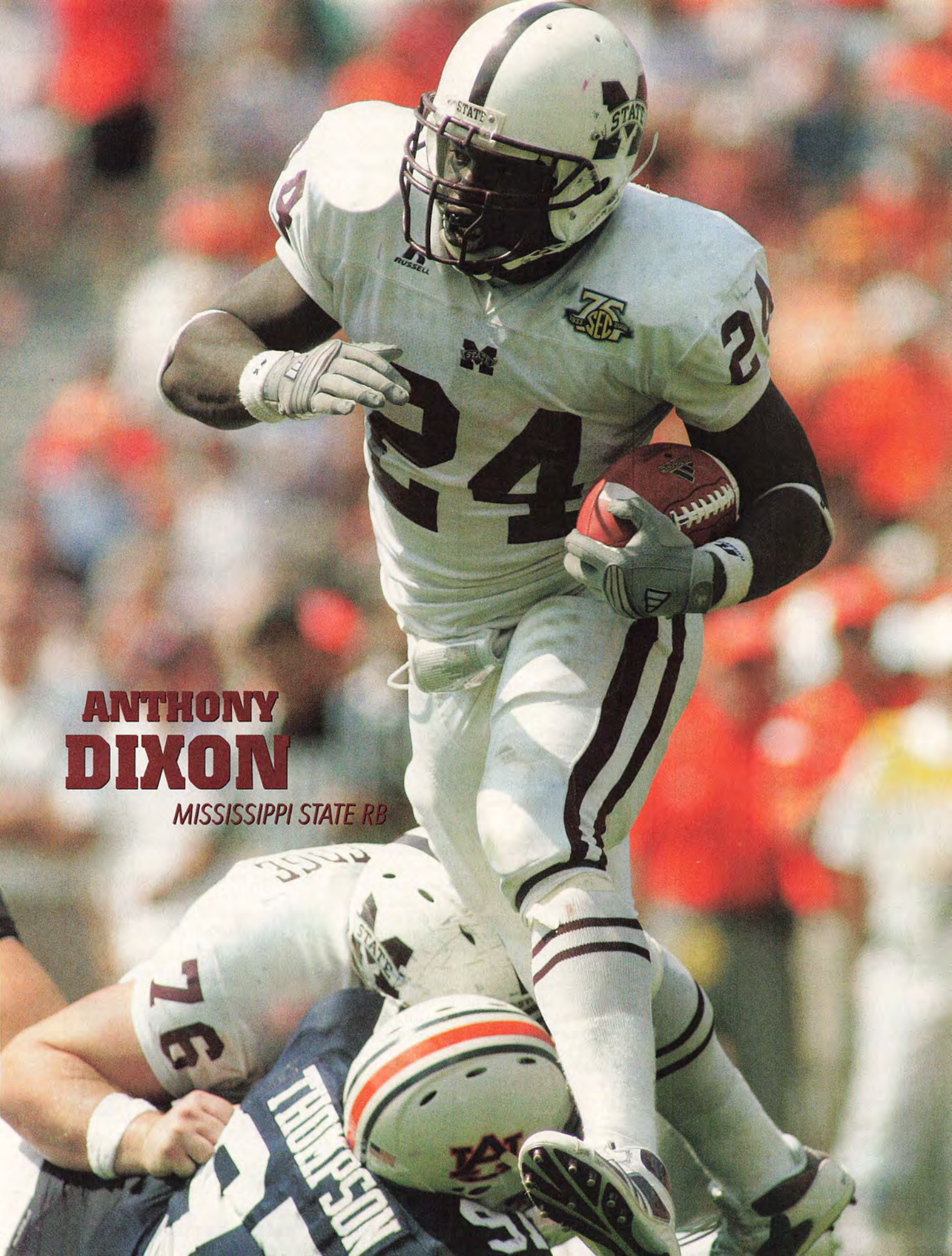
WESLEY CARROLL

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	at Louisiana Tech	W
S. 6	SE Louisiana	W
S. 13	Auburn	L
S. 20	at Georgia Tech	*
S. 27	at LSU	L
O. 11	Vanderbilt	W
O. 18	at Tennessee	L
O. 25	Middle Tennessee	W
N. 1	Kentucky	W
N. 15	at Alabama	*
N. 22	Arkansas	*
N. 28	at Ole Miss	*

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Down: Tim Clark/Albion Sports; Carroll: Al Koolstra



**ANTHONY
DIXON**

MISSISSIPPI STATE RB

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR 15 Co-Eric Riley (Sr.)	87 Aubrey Bell (Sr.)
WR 89 Jamayel Smith (Sr.)	81 Brandon McRae (Jr.)
LT 74 Mark Melichar (So.)	55 Quentin Saulsberry (Fr.)
LG 53 Anthony Strauder (Sr.)	73 Dakota Merritt (Fr.)
C 70 J.C. Brignone (So.)	66 D.J. Looney (Fr.)
RG 78 Michael Gates (Sr.)	75 Craig Jenkins (Jr.)
RT 79 Derek Sherrod (So.)	76 Phillip Freeman (Jr.)
TE 85 Brandon Henderson (So.)	84 Nelson Hurst (Fr.)
QB 13 Wesley Carroll (So.)	Tyson Lee (Jr.)
FB 35 Brandon Hart (Sr.)	38 Eric Hoskins (Sr.)
RB 24 Anthony Dixon (Jr.)	29 Christian Ducre (Jr.)

DEFENSE (9)

LE 90 Cortez McCraney (Sr.)	Davonne Wilson (So.)
DT 95 Kyle Love (Jr.)	96 Reggie Odom (So.)
DT 94 Jessie Bowman (Sr.)	98 LaMarcus Williams (So.)
RE 39 Tim Bailey (Sr.)	93 Brandon Cooper (So.)
SLB 34 K.J. Wright (So.)	49 Terrell Johnson (Fr.)
MLB 22 Jamar Chaney (Sr.)	33 Jamie Jones (Fr.)
WLB 10 Dominic Douglas (Sr.)	52 Karlin Brown (So.)
CB 23 Jasper O'Quinn (Sr.)	28 Tay Bowser (Jr.)
CB 18 Marcus Washington (Jr.)	26 Damein Anderson (Fr.)
SS 1 Keith Fitzhugh (Sr.)	8 De'Mon Glanton (Sr.)
FS 3 Derek Pegues (Sr.)	42 Zach Smith (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 37 Adam Carlson (Sr.)	KR 3 Derek Pegues (Sr.)
P 43 Blake McAdams (Sr.)	PR 3 Derek Pegues (Sr.)

JAMAR CHANEY



when the 6'0" speedster grabbed 33 passes for a team-high 510 yards. At the same time, Croom notes that McRae could be just as a big of a threat. "He has a chance to be an outstanding receiver for us," Croom says. "He's just got to be able to perform when the lights come on."

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN This was supposed to be one of the strengths of the team. But when left tackle and NFL prospect Mike Brown was dismissed in the spring following his arrest on a felony charge, the unit took a major hit. Now, experience is an issue on the offensive line. And compounding matters is the fact the arrest occurred two days before spring practice ended, which means Mark Melichar, Quentin Saulsberry and Addison Lawrence will enter two-a-days in a battle to replace Brown. The good news, though, is that Anthony Strauder, a 13-game starter in 2007, returns at left guard. As for stability, that's it. J.C. Brignone and Derek Sherrod are first-year starters at center and right tackle, respectively, while right guard Michael Gates drew only two starts last season.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The good news for MSU is that it signed seven defensive linemen in February. That's important to note, because graduation took its toll up front. How much the newcomers will contribute is unknown. So that has Croom and first-year defensive coordinator Charlie Harbison relying on guys who weren't every-down players last season. At the end slots, Cortez McCraney, a former tackle, and Tim Bailey, a former linebacker, are penciled in as the starters. On the inside, it's Kyle Love and Jessie Bowman. But if there's a name to remember, it's incoming freshman Templeton Hardy. He possesses the talent and speed to garner considerable playing time.

LINEBACKERS Lack of experience certainly isn't a factor in the linebacker corps. The Bulldogs' top two leading tacklers are back in Jamar Chaney and Dominic Douglas, a tandem that accounted for 167 stops, including 12.5 behind the line of scrimmage. MSU does have to replace Gabe O'Neal on the strong side but could be getting an upgrade with K.J. Wright, who is taller and considered to be more athletic. In fact, the coaching staff contemplated moving Wright to defensive end at one point.



DEFENSIVE BACKS Mississippi State welcomes back five experienced members of the secondary, but the unit's depth took a hit in the spring. Right corner Anthony Johnson withdrew from school in April without any explanation. However, Marcus Washington had received most of the snaps in the

KEY BULLDOGS

Anthony Dixon, RB Finished seventh in the SEC with 1,066 yards.

Wesley Carroll, QB Started the final eight games due to injuries to Michael Henig and Josh Riddell.

Derek Pegues, FS Playmaker in the secondary is also a weapon on special teams.

Jamar Chaney, LB Led the Bulldogs with 89 tackles.

Jamayel Smith, WR Caught 33 passes for a team-high 510 yards and three touchdowns.



KEY LOSSES

Titus Brown, DE Was MSU's inspirational leader and co-captain.

Royce Blackledge, C Started the last 25 games at center.

Mike Brown, LT All-SEC tackle dismissed following arrest on felony charges.

Tony Burks, WR Caught 33 passes and scored three times.

Avery Hannibal, LB A 13-game starter a year ago, he posted 44 tackles, including 8.5 for a loss.

RIISING STAR

Robert Elliott arrived in Starkville as one of the Bulldogs' most decorated recruits. Still, the coaching staff felt that the speedy running back needed to redshirt to mature as a player. Now they need him to contribute. And with his explosive speed, there's no reason to think he won't.



Pegues: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Chaney: Sam Jordan



2008 MISSISSIPPI STATE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				DEFENSIVE BACKS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
Ambers, Robert	5-11/181	Jr.	Los Angeles, CA	70 Brignone, J.C.	6-1/290	So.	Pass Christian, MS	10 Douglas, Dominic	6-2/227	Sr.	Clinton, MS
13 Carroll, Wesley	6-1/190	So.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	58 Carpenter, Johnny	6-2/290	Jr.	Citronelle, AL	Hines, Josh	5-11/215	Fr.	Rome, GA
Lee, Tyson	5-11/190	Jr.	Columbus, MS	76 Freeman, Phillip	6-6/290	Jr.	Wesson, MS	36 Hughes, Jamon	6-0/230	Jr.	Rolling Fork, MS
14 Relf, Chris	6-3/211	Fr.	Montgomery, AL	78 Gates, Michael	6-4/305	Sr.	Fairburn, GA	49 Johnson, Terrell	6-2/210	Fr.	Cullomburg, AL
17 Riddell, Josh	6-1/195	Sr.	Salem, OR	75 Jenkins, Craig	6-4/315	Jr.	Pearl, MS	33 Jones, Jamie	6-0/215	Fr.	Springdale, AR
RUNNING BACKS				DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				SPECIALISTS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
Alexander, Micah	5-9/205	Fr.	Huntsville, AL	62 Lawrence, Addison	6-4/265	Fr.	Coldwater, MS	Bowles, Anthony (LS)	5-11/220	Sr.	Grenada, MS
24 Dixon, Anthony	6-1/240	Jr.	Jackson, MS	66 Looney, D.J.	6-1/290	Fr.	Birmingham, AL	37 Carlson, Adam (K/P)	6-4/195	Sr.	Gulfport, MS
29 Ducr�, Christian	6-0/222	Jr.	LaCombe, LA	McMillan, John	6-2/285	So.	Paragould, AR	46 Feld, Aaron (LS)	6-1/225	So.	Homewood, AL
Edwards, Devon	6-0/217	Fr.	Coffeetown, AL	74 Melichar, Mark	6-5/290	So.	Birmingham, AL	43 McAdams, Blake (P)	5-10/190	Sr.	Ripley, TN
2 Elliott, Robert	6-0/192	Fr.	Okolona, MS	73 Merritt, Dakota	6-5/302	Fr.	Cantonment, FL	Moore, Brad (K/P)	6-1/190	So.	Starkville, MS
82 Green, Marcus	6-2/230	Fr.	Scooba, MS	55 Saulsberry, Quentin	6-3/286	Fr.	Coldwater, MS	41 Richards, Eric (K/P)	6-4/227	Fr.	Vicksburg, MS
35 Hart, Brandon	5-11/240	Sr.	LaGrange, GA	79 Sherrod, Derek	6-5/298	So.	Columbus, MS	Richardson, Cole (K/P)	5-11/180	Fr.	Hattiesburg, MS
38 Hoskins, Eric	5-11/230	Sr.	Weir, MS	63 Spencer, Chris	6-3/305	Jr.	Meridian, MS	Woodward, Patrick (P)	6-3/205	Sr.	Louisville, MS
Mayfield, Kaeon	5-9/185	Fr.	Florissant, MO	53 Strauder, Anthony	6-3/290	Sr.	Natchez, MS				
30 Stallworth, Arnell	5-10/200	Jr.	Daphne, AL	Yates, Spencer	6-3/250	Fr.	Brandon, MS				
44 Stockett, Ethan	6-1/255	Fr.	Fort Smith, AR	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				SPECIALISTS			
49 Young, Taurus	5-8/228	Sr.	Kilmichael, MS	HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
RECEIVERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
87 Bell, Aubrey	6-3/217	Sr.	Prichard, AL	39 Bailey, Tim	6-3/241	Sr.	Glen Allan, MS	27 Kyles, Jarvis	6-0/185	Jr.	Milledgeville, GA
Edwards, Blake	5-10/185	Fr.	Rome, GA	Behel, Tyler	6-0/240	Fr.	Winfield, AL	40 Nance, Chris	5-10/182	Sr.	Tusculumbia, AL
Ellard, Andrew	5-11/180	Jr.	Natchez, MS	94 Bowman, Jessie	6-1/305	Sr.	Brookhaven, MS	23 O'Quinn, Jasper	5-10/185	Sr.	Bude, MS
47 Mason, Ryan	6-4/217	Sr.	Mobile, AL	92 Burns, Charles	6-3/265	Sr.	Hattiesburg, MS	3 Pegues, Derek	5-10/196	Sr.	Batesville, MS
81 McRae, Brandon	6-4/200	Jr.	Chester, VA	93 Cooper, Brandon	6-3/240	So.	Missouri City, TX	42 Smith, Zach	6-0/180	So.	Altoona, AL
15 Riley, Co-Eric	6-1/200	Sr.	Lucedale, MS	Hilson Jr., MC	6-1/305	Jr.	Tutwiler, MS	Valenti, Kevin	5-10/188	Fr.	Tampa, FL
89 Smith, Jamayel	6-0/183	Sr.	East Point, GA	97 Holmes, Jimmie	6-3/235	Sr.	Aiken, SC	18 Washington, Marcus	5-10/180	Jr.	Missouri City, TX
Sosebee, Major	6-2/185	So.	Warrior, AL	95 Love, Kyle	6-1/312	Jr.	Fairburn, GA	Williams, Jarvis	5-11/170	Jr.	Jackson, MS
19 Wilder, O'Neal	6-5/190	Fr.	Carthage, MS	90 McCraney, Cortez	6-4/272	Sr.	Southaven, MS				
TIGHT ENDS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		SPECIALISTS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
85 Henderson, Brandon	6-1/250	So.	Fayetteville, GA	96 Odom, Reggie	6-0/295	So.	Deland, FL				
Holbert, Colt	6-4/200	Fr.	Powderly, TX	91 Prince, Rodney	6-3/252	So.	Irondale, AL				
84 Hurst, Nelson	6-4/240	Fr.	Plainfield, IN	Smith, Anthony	5-9/278	Jr.	Ridgeland, MS				
Webb, Thomas	6-3/230	Jr.	Starkville, MS	98 Williams, LaMarcus	6-1/290	So.	Bastrop, LA				
Wilbanks, Austin	6-3/245	Jr.	Forest, MS	Wilson, Davonne	6-3/220	So.	Smyrna, GA				
LINEBACKERS				HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		SPECIALISTS			
HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	
52 Brown, Karlin	5-9/195	So.	Tallahassee, FL								
Brown, Mark	5-11/225	Jr.	Madison, MS								
22 Chaney, Jamar	6-1/236	Sr.	Fort Pierce, FL								
Daniels, Lennis	5-10/220	So.	Montgomery, AL								

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5 (4-4 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT.
A. 30	LSU	L	45- 0	50,112
S. 8	at Tulane	W	38-17	31,076
S. 15	at Auburn	W	19-14	82,129
S. 22	Gardner-Webb	W	31-15	42,272
S. 29	at South Carolina	L	38-21	78,883
O. 6	UAB	W	30-13	45,259
O. 13	Tennessee	L	33-21	50,217
O. 20	at West Virginia	L	38-13	61,022
O. 27	at Kentucky	W	31-14	68,173
N. 10	Alabama	W	17-12	56,188
N. 17	at Arkansas	L	45-31	55,185
N. 23	Ole Miss	W	17-14	51,727
D. 29	#UCF	W	10- 3	63,816
#Liberty Bowl				

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Wesley Carroll	255	134	1,392	9	7
Michael Henig	78	36	447	1	9
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Anthony Dixon	287	1,066	3.7	14	
Christian Ducre	112	487	4.3	3	
Justin Williams	21	96	4.6	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jamayel Smith	33	510	15.5	3	
Tony Burks	33	444	13.5	3	
Jason Husband	16	193	12.1	2	

Kicking: Adam Carlson, 10-13 FGs, 33-34 XPs, 63 points
 Tackles: Jamar Chaney, 89; Dominic Douglas, 78
 Sacks: Titus Brown, 8
 Interceptions: Derek Pegues, 5

Returning Players in Bold

spring while Johnson sat out recovering from a broken leg sustained in the season finale against Ole Miss. Washington started seven games last year and should make a smooth transition into a permanent starting role. The star of this group will once again be free safety Derek Pegues, a first-team All-SEC pick who had five interceptions in 2007 and has returned two interceptions for touchdowns in his career. Add corner Jasper O'Quinn and strong safety Keith Fitzhugh to the mix, and it appears State will field one of the better defensive backfields in the SEC in 2008.

SPECIALISTS Kicking duties will again be entrusted to punter Blake McAdams and place-kicker Adam Carlson, players who made significant strides last season. Carlson connected on 10-of-13 attempts and provided the game winner against Ole Miss — a 48-yarder with 12 seconds left. A key to this unit is Pegues, who was fourth in the SEC in punt returns with a 9.9-yard average.

JAMAYEL SMITH



SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP MISSISSIPPI STATE: "It can happen at Mississippi State. You can win there. And you can win consistently. You have to win big games and win the games nobody expects you to win. You have to have some luck involved along the way, but if they believe it, preach it and believe it, it will happen. ... You can't always get caught up in 'here we go again.' It can be like a coaster going uphill or downhill. ... They are one of the most physical teams in the SEC. They do a tremendous job finding ways to run the football with their formations, which enabled them to do a lot with a young quarterback last season. (Offensive coordinator) Woody McCorvey has a way of getting you off-balance with his play-calling. His offenses are always hard-nosed and can run the football. ... They will be an interesting team this year. They won a lot of close games last year. Give them the credit for winning those games, but that can turnaround on you the next year. ... (Anthony) Dixon is a very solid back. I also like (redshirt freshman) Robert Elliott. And that other guy (Christian Ducre) was good. They have some depth at that position. Sylvester (Croom) has recruited well."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

New-look defense For the first time since his arrival, Sylvester Croom found himself looking for a new defensive coordinator following the departure of Ellis Johnson, who left for Arkansas before ending up at South Carolina. However, Croom didn't have to go far — he promoted from within, naming safeties coach Charlie Harbison to the position. And feel free to call Harbison by his nickname, Cheese. After all, that's what he prefers. The only new addition to the staff is linebackers coach Louis Campbell, who spent the last 18 years at Arkansas in different capacities.

Law & Order Bulldog players found themselves in the news more than normal during the offseason, and not for good deeds. Four players — Jamon Hughes, Derek Pegues, Mike Brown and Quinton Wesley — were arrested for various reasons. Complicating matters were the dismissals of Brown and Wesley, who were arrested and charged with felonies for allegedly firing guns on campus. Brown, a starting left tackle and a second-team All-SEC performer, was a projected NFL prospect.

Looking for ideas Offensive woes led Croom to travel the country and visit with other schools in an attempt to find new ideas. He declined to say where he went. Last year, the Bulldogs ranked 113th nationally in total offense. But note: He's not going to abandon the West Coast scheme.

Spoils of victory After guiding MSU to eight wins, the most since 2000, Croom earned a contract extension through 2011.

Forget size In high school and junior college, the knock on quarterback Tyson Lee was his height. Call it a legitimate concern, as he stands at just 5'11". However, he's defied the skeptics by putting up incredible numbers and posting wins. In his two years at Itawamba (Miss.) Community College, he set the school record with 4,432 passing yards. He now finds himself second on the depth chart behind Wesley Carroll. "Say what you want about his size, but all he does is make plays," Croom says. "I've seen enough of him to know he can help us win games." Lee arrived at State as a walk-on but could find himself on scholarship in the fall.

New slate The Bulldogs' schedule will definitely have a new look this fall. How different? They will play five new foes — Louisiana Tech, Southeastern Louisiana, Georgia Tech, Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee. MSU posted a 4-3 ledger last year against teams it plays again this season.

Smith: Nelson Chenault/US Presswire

2008 SIGNEES

So, how did the Bulldogs fare in the recruiting war? Most will say that it wasn't a flashy class, but those same pundits will agree MSU definitely met its needs. If there was a top priority for Sylvester Croom and his staff, it was to find the best defensive linemen available. It's safe to say the goal was met. In all, seven were signed, and they were some pretty good ones at that. Guys like Trevor Stigers, Templeton Hardy, Devin Jones and Kirkland Gainous are players Croom expects to make major impacts early in their careers. They certainly come to campus with impressive credentials, and the recruiting stars to boot.

The Bulldogs were also in desperate need of a tight end, and they got two in Nelson Hurst and Kendrick Cook. They got a bonus, too, in that Hurst enrolled in January to be eligible for the spring. Talk about a jump-start. While most his age were worried about prom dates and graduation, Hurst was in a battle to earn a starting nod. He concluded spring second on the depth chart. Also a priority, as the case is every year, were defensive backs, and State hit the jackpot with Charles Mitchell, Mississippi's Gatorade Player of the Year who played both defense and offense in high school.

Then there are the offensive linemen. The Mississippi well was nearly dry in that category, but MSU nabbed two of the state's best in Tobias Smith and Phillip Freeman.

If there was one area missed out on, it was quarterback. Not one signal-caller was signed, a move magnified by the announcement that the often-injured Michael Henig decided to call it quits. To help matters, Tyson Lee walked on in the spring and impressed the coaching staff. The junior college transfer emerged from spring practice No. 2 on the depth chart.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

BY POSITION

Defensive Linemen.....	7
Linebackers	4
Defensive Backs.....	3
Offensive Linemen	3
Wide Receivers	3
Athletes	3
Tight Ends.....	2
Running Backs	1
Punters.....	1

BY STATE

Mississippi	16
Florida	4
Alabama	4
Georgia.....	1
Indiana	1
Texas	1

SPOTLIGHT ON...

TEMPLETON HARDY • DL • COMO, MS

If you're looking for a negative on Templeton Hardy, Clifton Davis isn't the man to ask. The North Panola coach spent every day this past fall with the 6'4", 295-pound standout and discovered that the highly touted defensive tackle excels in everything that's asked of him, both on the field and off.

"He wants to be the best at everything he does," Davis says of the four-star signee. "He's a big man with quick feet, and he's extremely smart. He's a very aggressive player."

Here's all you need to know about Hardy, a straight-A student: In the summer of 2007, he underwent knee surgery to repair torn ligaments. But rather than sit out the first few games, he chose to play. Rather, he refused to sit. But what really impressed Davis was Hardy's willingness to play any position. It wouldn't be unusual to see him at nosetackle one play and at defensive end the next. There were even times his services were needed at linebacker.

"He just dominated the opponent," Davis says. "The man in front of him had no chance. Teams would put two people on him, and they still couldn't block him."

JOHN PAUL ALFORD	OL	6'3"	280	KOSCIUSKO, MS
Ranked No. 6 center in nation and No. 9 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals.				
CHARLES BAILEY	WR	6'2"	173	ST. AUGUSTINE, FL
Recorded 32 catches for 495 yards and three TDs in '07. Father is an NFL scout.				
NICK BELL	DL	6'4"	230	BESSEMER, AL
Named Class 5A All-Metro honorable mention by <i>Birmingham News</i> .				
COREY BROOMFIELD	DB	5'10"	157	PALM BAY, FL
Named first-team All-Space Coast by <i>Florida Today</i> . Had five INTs as senior.				
ARCETO CLARK	ATH	5'10"	165	VERONA, MS
Ranked No. 36 corner by ESPN.com. Named Class 4A Division 4 Offensive MVP.				
KENDRICK COOK	TE	6'3"	230	ALTALLA, AL
Ranked No. 34 tight end in country by ESPN.com.				
TERRANCE DAVIS	ATH	5'11"	180	CONYERS, GA
Ranked No. 52 athlete by ESPN.com. Rushed for 963 yards, nine TDs in '07.				
RASHUN DIXON	ATH	6'2"	227	JACKSON, MS
Ranked No. 7 prospect in Mississippi and No. 18 safety in nation by Rivals.				
SEAN FERGUSON	DL	6'4"	225	MIAMI, FL
Named second-team All-Dade County in Class 4A-6A by the Miami Herald. Recorded 12 sacks as a senior. Had two sacks in Florida HS All-Star Game.				
PHILLIP FREEMAN	OL	6'6"	290	WESSON, MS
Copiah-Lincoln (Miss.) CC transfer. Ranked No. 24 juco prospect by Rivals.				
KIRKLAND GAINOUS	LB	6'2"	205	TALLAHASSEE, FL
Named first-team All-Big Bend by the <i>Tallahassee Democrat</i> .				
TEMPLETON HARDY	DL	6'4"	295	COMO, MS
Ranked No. 3 prospect in Mississippi and No. 8 defensive tackle in nation by Rivals.com. Selected to play in Under Armour All-Star Game.				
ANTONIO HOSKINS	LB	6'2"	215	WATER VALLEY, MS
Named second-team Class 3A All-State by the <i>Jackson Clarion-Ledger</i> .				
MIKE HUNT	LB	6'3"	220	MEADVILLE, MS
Ranked No. 16 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals. Recorded five INTs in '06.				
NELSON HURST	TE	6'4"	240	PLAINFIELD, IN
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Indiana by Rivals and No. 34 tight end by Scout.				
JOSHUA JACKSON	DL	6'3"	294	CANTON, MS
Ranked No. 11 prospect in Mississippi by Rivals. Registered 15 sacks in '07.				
DEVIN JONES	DL	6'2"	240	OLIVE BRANCH, MS
Missed '07 season with knee injury. Won state Class 4A power lifting title in '06.				
SHANE MCCARDELL	DL	6'5"	220	BEAUMONT, TX
Recorded 33 tackles, 3.5 sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior.				
CHARLES MITCHELL	DB	5'11"	187	CLARKSDALE, MS
Named Mississippi Gatorade Player of the Year. Ranked No. 5 prospect in Mississippi and No. 10 safety in the nation by Rivals.				
TOJO PATTERSON	RB	6'0"	190	CORINTH, MS
Rushed for 1,858 yards, 17 TDs in '06. Ranked No. 13 in Mississippi by Rivals.				
DELMON ROBINSON	WR	5'10"	180	VICKSBURG, MS
Won state high jump title as a junior. Father played basketball at Alcorn State.				
TOBIAS SMITH	OL	6'3"	292	COLUMBUS, MS
Ranked No. 9 prospect in Mississippi and No. 34 guard in country by Rivals.				
TREVOR STIGERS	DL	6'4"	225	RIDGELAND, MS
Named Metro Jackson Player of the Year by Jackson Clarion-Ledger.				
BAKER SWEDENBURG	P	6'0"	175	COLUMBUS, MS
Ranked No. 3 punter in nation by Ray Guy ProKicker.com.				
BO WALTERS	LB	6'1"	225	WILSONVILLE, AL
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by ASWA. Recorded 110 tackles in '07.				
LOUIS WATSON	DB	5'10"	165	MOBILE, AL
Named first-team Class 5A All-State by ASWA. Had six INTs in '06 and '07.				
O'NEAL WILDER	WR	6'5"	190	CARTHAGE, MS
Named first-team Class 3A All-State by Mississippi Association of Coaches.				

the EGG BOWL

by Michael Bradley



Because he grew up listening to both Ole Miss and Mississippi State radio broadcasts with his daddy in tiny Drew, a rural hamlet in the northwest part of the state, Archie Manning never did develop much of a hatred for MSU, even though he ended up playing quarterback for the Rebels. The way his father figured it, the Mannings were Mississippians and therefore supported both schools.

"My daddy was a sports fan, but more than anything, he was a Mississippi sports fan," Manning says. "He rooted for the home schools and the pro teams that had Mississippi natives on them. He liked the New York Giants because of (former Ole Miss quarterback) Charlie Connerly and the St. Louis Cardinals because of (second baseman) Don Blasingame, who was from Corinth."

Manning's father never had a strong rooting interest when the

Rebels and Bulldogs squared off. As for Archie, he leaned toward Ole Miss, "because they won more."

Now, during his three years as a starter for Ole Miss, Manning wanted to beat the Bulldogs. Anybody who played for John Vaught did. The venerable coach lost only twice to MSU during his 24 years in Oxford and went undefeated over the first 17 games his teams played against the people from Starkville. But Manning never felt anything "nasty" about the rivalry. OK, he did catch some grief from the MSU fans when he played baseball against the Bulldogs, but things never got too out of hand.

In 1969, however, the rivalry went to a different level for Manning. The Ole Miss junior was enjoying a great season, as were the Rebels, who came to Starkville with a 6-3 record. Vaught promised his team that a win over the Bulldogs would lead to a Sugar Bowl berth. (Back

then, bowl invitations were the result of politics as much as performance.) That added some motivation for Manning, but when he came out to warm up before the game, a sign that ran the length of the wall behind the Ole Miss bench fired him up even more.

Because of his strong play, Manning had been receiving considerable attention in the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger* and *Jackson Daily News*, two papers that circulated statewide and were owned by the Hederman brothers. The MSU crowd didn't take too kindly to the publicity, which it considered excessive. Thus the sign: "Archie Hederman."

"That inspired me," Manning says with a laugh.

Over the past century, players on both sides of the rivalry have been similarly "inspired" to conquer the other side. Some, like Manning, have used their incentive to fashion great victories; like the 48-22 beating that he and the Rebels laid on the Bulldogs that Thanksgiving afternoon. Others have taken it a little far, like when the teams staged brawls during the first quarter of the 1990 game and prior to the '97 meeting.

MSU and has been AD for 21 years. "When we stand up against each other, all things are equal."

College football in the Deep South was 12 years old when Mississippi entertained Southwestern Baptist University (now Union University) in 1893. MSU (known then as Mississippi A&M, a land-grant school), meanwhile, didn't begin intercollegiate football until 1895, when it broke away from its intramural roots. Once the Aggies began playing ball, it didn't take too long for someone to decide the two schools should get together on the gridiron.

Yellow fever stopped football at both institutions in 1897, and MSU didn't resume play until 1901. And that occasion was deemed worthy of a matchup between the two in-state rivals.

The contest was played Oct. 28 on the Oktibbeha State Fairgrounds in Starkville and featured some pregame wrangling over eligibility issues. That was hardly news, since teams from all over the country were rather elastic in their requirements for inclusion on football teams. Once the dispute was settled,

ilar arrogance can be found in the relationship between Mississippi's two largest schools.

"This is a fact: the Ole Miss people seem to think they are the upper crust of the state," maintains Jack Cristal, who has done play-by-play of State football games for 54 years. "They look down on the Mississippi State people."

"Ole Miss people think they're better than most."

The Ole Miss crowd doesn't refute that assessment. "People like to tease them about the cowbells (rung by Bulldog fans at home games), and they get real mad about that," says Mississippi chancellor Robert Khayat, who played for the Rebels from 1957-59. "It has always been a rural-against-city rivalry. It's funny, though. Mississippi is mostly rural. There isn't too much that's cosmopolitan about the state."

The two sides do respect each other, though, even if Warner Alford, who played at Ole Miss from '58-60, says, "We are THE university of Mississippi." From 1911-25, the Aggies had little reason to consider the Red and Blue anything but a doormat. Mississippi

"IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT FOR MISSISSIPPI AND MISSISSIPPI STATE TO COMPETE AGAINST TENNESSEE AND FLORIDA WITH THEIR LARGE BUDGETS IS A HANDICAP. WHEN WE STAND UP AGAINST EACH OTHER, ALL THINGS ARE EQUAL."

— MSU athletic director Larry Templeton

No matter whether the fighting was real or a metaphor for the effort required to earn a victory, the Ole Miss-Mississippi State Egg Bowl game is one of the nation's finest, if somewhat underrated, rivalries. Because neither team is a perennial national powerhouse or even SEC contender (the teams have combined for only eight titles in the league's 74 years), thanks to their modest athletic budgets, the contest doesn't generate the same interest as Alabama-Auburn, Florida-Georgia or even Georgia-Auburn, the Deep South's oldest rivalry. Add in the fact that the state is largely rural and has a population of only around three million, and you get the sense that the battle for the Egg Bowl is a parochial concern. Maybe, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty of history and tradition behind it.

"In the state of Mississippi, people understand that for Mississippi and Mississippi State to compete against Tennessee and Florida with their large budgets is a handicap," says MSU athletic director Larry Templeton, who grew up in Starkville, went to

the game began, and the Maroon and White prevailed, 17-0. In his fine book on the game, *The Egg Bowl*, William G. Barner reprints accounts of the contest from the A&M student newspaper, *The College Reflector*, and from the *University of Mississippi Magazine* about the game. It was clear that a rivalry had been born.

First, *The Reflector*: "The University boys...played the dirtiest game of ball that we have seen. They would do anything to put our men out so long as the referee was not looking."

Then, *The Magazine*: "To one who has never indulged in any exercise more violent than...the milking of a patient cow, football seems a brutal sport. Our bucolic friend of the Agricultural College should confine himself to mumble-peg and townball."

That type of back-and-forth prevails today and is somewhat typical of the relationship between any state university and its land-grant counterpart. Michigan students and alums refer to Michigan State as Moo U, and a sim-

State was 11-0 in the rivalry during that stretch (no games were played from 1912-14) and outscored its overmatched foe 327-33 in those games. What began as Ole Miss dominance had swung to an iron-fisted Maroon and White rule.

That changed in 1926, when Ole Miss broke through with a 7-6 win in Starkville. The win was huge, but the postgame mayhem changed the rivalry forever. The Rebel contingent celebrated the end of its heroes' drought by storming the soggy field and deciding to take the goalposts as spoils of victory. As one might imagine, this didn't sit too well with the Aggie students, who defended their turf vehemently. The resulting melee, which was wisely avoided by the players, surprised and upset officials from both sides. By the next year, some changes had been made.

The biggest was the introduction of a real trophy for the game's winner. The award, a solid-gold football, was agreed upon by students from both schools and was thought to be a deterrent to future goalpost abuse and

subsequent violence. What a difference a trophy could make! After Ole Miss' 20-12 win, accomplished before an overflow crowd of 14,000 in Oxford, there was a dignified presentation of the Golden Egg and an unparalleled spirit of cooperation. There were even calls, echoed by the new governor two months later, for combining the two institutions in order to create one fine university — and a heckuva football team.

Fortunately for Egg Bowl fans, that didn't happen, and the teams continued to play each Thanksgiving Day. Not that State (the school was renamed Mississippi State College in 1932) got too much out of it. The "Flood," a nickname given the Mississippi team in 1929, was undefeated in the series from 1926-35, winning nine and tying one (7-7 in 1929). When the Maroons finally did break through, in 1936 with a 26-6 win in Starkville, there were no riots, just an enthusiastic celebration and the beginning of some prosperity. Over the next six years, Mississippi State won five of six, including a 6-0 decision in 1941 (eight days before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor) that clinched its first SEC title.

The arrival of John Vaught in Oxford in 1947 changed everything for the Rebels, who embarked on a dominance of the Bulldogs (Mississippi State adopted the nickname in the early '40s) over the next two-plus decades, as the Rebels became an SEC and national power. "Vaught always said, 'Never forget that Mississippi State is your rival,'" Alford says. "And he wanted to beat them."

Khayat can speak to the pressure on the Rebels when they met Mississippi State. In 1957, he was a sophomore charged with kicking the point-after that would forge a late 7-7 tie. He had tried dozens of such kicks before, but none so important. "If I had missed it, I might have been hanged," he says.

There wasn't too much drama during the period. There were some moments, like in 1964, when a strong MSU ended 17 years of winless desperation with a 20-17 triumph that triggered a huge celebration that included canceling of classes the following Monday and presentation of the key to the city by the Starkville mayor.

One of the more controversial aspects of the rivalry surrounded the decision in 1973

to move the games from their campus homes to Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson. The decision was made to accommodate the growing number of people who wished to watch the game live, and the first year in Jackson brought a record throng of 43,556. Over the next 17 years, upwards of 62,000 fans would pack the joint for the game. In 1991, Templeton made a decision that was unpopular in some corners but made good business sense for his school. Even though Jackson's business community made a spirited — and lucrative — bid to keep the game, Templeton brought it home to Starkville.

"Moving the game back helped us raise the funds to build skyboxes and club seating," Templeton says. "It's a cornerstone game on which you can hold down your base of season ticket holders. Both schools have doubled the size of their stadiums since bringing the game back on campus."



"But when I moved it, I wasn't very popular, because the majority of the state's population is around Jackson."

The following year, Ole Miss did the same thing, bringing the game to Oxford. Alford, then the Ole Miss AD, caught much of the same flak Templeton did. Not that he apologizes for the move. "We added to our stadium and renovated it because of the move," Alford says. "We put lights in. It's a big thing to play the (MSU) game in Oxford."

Safely at home, the rivalry has delivered plenty of excitement over the past 10 years. The '97 edition featured plenty of drama, from the pregame fight that brought state

troopers onto the field to restore order, to the last-minute TD and two-point conversion pass from Stewart Partridge to Cory Peterson that gave Ole Miss a 15-14 win. The '99 game was even crazier. There was no brawl but fireworks nonetheless.

The Bulldogs had staggered into the game on a two-game losing streak — after winning their first eight. Through three quarters, it appeared as if the losing streak would continue. Ole Miss held a 20-6 advantage and looked pretty safe. But a pair of fourth-quarter TD passes by Wayne Madkin, the last with 0:27 remaining, knotted the score at 20.

Ole Miss could have played for overtime. Should have played for overtime. Didn't play for overtime. Because he felt his team was completely gassed, coach David Cutcliffe directed quarterback Romaro Miller to throw downfield, even though the Rebels had the ball at their own 27. Miller's first pass was deflected by MSU's Robert Bean and collected by teammate Eugene Clinton, who returned the ball to the Rebel 26 with 0:08 left. From there, Scott Westerfield drilled a 43-yard field goal that won the game.

Last year, the Bulldogs staged similar dramatics in a contest that appeared to be lost heading into the final period. Ole Miss held a 14-0 lead and a total offensive edge of 290 yards to 144. The futility extended another few minutes before MSU awoke. The Bulldogs stuffed a 4th-and-1 run by Rebels star BenJarvus Green-Ellis with 12:44 remaining. MSU took over on the Ole Miss 46 and drove for a TD, with Wesley Carroll hitting Anthony Dixon from four yards out to make it 14-7, with 7:51 to go. Five minutes later, MSU's Anthony Pegues scooped up a short punt and galloped 75 yards for a game-tying score. The comeback was completed with 0:12 left when Adam Carlson drilled a 48-yard field goal — the longest of his career — giving the Bulldogs a 17-14 win and their seventh win of the year, which cemented the team's bowl résumé. A month later, the Bulldogs played in the postseason for the first time under coach Sylvester Croom.

"For what it meant to Mississippi State, it was obviously one of the more important ballgames we've played," Crista says.

Of course it was; the game was against Ole Miss. All of those games are important.

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HEAD COACH: HOUSTON NUTT RECORD AT SCHOOL: FIRST SEASON CAREER RECORD: 111-70 (15 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: KENT AUSTIN DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TYRONE NIX

OXFORD, MISS. VAUGHT-HEMINGWAY STADIUM (60,580)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

69

REBELS

Ole Miss

SEC WEST
PREDICTION

6

OLE MISS
rebels

A winning coach looking for a change and a program looking for respectability could be a successful mix. That's certainly what Ole Miss fans are hoping. Embattled at Arkansas but beloved at his new school, Houston Nutt begins his first season as head coach of the Rebels, who won only three SEC games in three years under ousted coach Ed Orgeron.

Nutt led the Razorbacks to the SEC Championship Game in Atlanta in 2002 and 2006. Atlanta is a place Ole Miss football has never been on official business, and that's something Nutt hopes to change. With his ability to rally and inspire, he helped the Hogs to a 75-48 mark in 10 seasons in his native state.

Quarterback Jevan Snead, a transfer from the University of Texas who sat out last season, could be Nutt's primary agent of change. Orgeron was prepared to revamp his offense into a spread attack with Snead as the centerpiece. Nutt, whose Arkansas teams led the SEC in rushing five of the last six seasons, has stopped short of saying he'll go hog-wild with Snead. He emphasizes the necessity to adapt and points to Arkansas' successful passing teams of the Clint Stoerner Era.

"It's about who you have on campus," says Nutt. "It's about trying to win the SEC championship with the players you have on campus."

Not all of Nutt's Arkansas staff joined him at Ole Miss. Defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix and offensive coordinator Kent Austin are both new. It's the second SEC coordinator job for Nix, who coached for Steve Spurrier at South Carolina last season. Austin was an Ole Miss quarterback in the 1980s under Billy Brewer. Last year, as head coach, he led the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders to the Grey Cup title and was named the league's Coach of the Year.

QUARTERBACKS Two words you will never hear associated with Nutt's first Ole Miss team — quarterback controversy. The job is

clearly Snead's. Texas signees aren't generally runts in the litter. Snead wasn't able to beat out Colt McCoy but saw significant game action in 2006, completing 26-of-49 attempts for 371 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. The position has been a revolving door since 2003, and Snead is arguably the Rebels' first SEC-caliber quarterback since Eli Manning. He brings touch and accuracy, attributes missing in the recent past, but the coaches won't know for sure that he will make the right decision under duress until the regular season begins. He was 20-of-26 in the spring game, and Austin was encouraged. For now, Nutt cites Austin for improving Snead's mechanics. "Jevan had a few flaws in his throwing with locked knees and transfer of weight, but Kent's an excellent teacher," Nutt says. Junior Billy Tapp, an Orgeron signee whom the former coach moved to tight end, was the No. 2 quarterback in the spring. However, Tapp will have a fight on his hands to hold off freshmen Chris Wilkes and Nathan Stanley. Wilkes is a pocket-oriented player, while Stanley is more mobile. Either could be the starter if Snead is injured.

RUNNING BACKS The deepest position on the team last year quickly became one of the thinnest in spring drills. BenJarvus Green-Ellis, a 1,000-yard rusher in 2007, and his backup, Bruce Hall, exhausted their eligibility, and UCLA transfer Jeremy McGee was moved to cornerback. For two years, Orgeron called prep All-American Cordera Eason his "back of the future" but did little to develop him when opportunities were available. Eason brings a nice blend of speed and power to the table. He finished the spring as No. 1 but has to learn to be tougher with the football. Eason will get a strong push from Enrique Davis, a former Auburn signee who played the 2007 season at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy. Davis was rated one of the top tailbacks in the nation coming out of high school. Freshmen Devin Thomas and Brandon Bolden will also get strong looks, though Thomas, one of the top players in Texas, will have to prove he can overcome a broken ankle suffered last season.

RECEIVERS This was perhaps the most productive unit on the entire team last season and was deep enough to withstand a position switch when Nutt moved Marshay Green, the team's third-leading pass-catcher last year, to cornerback. Mike Wallace is a deep threat who routinely got behind secondaries last year, while Shay Hodge is a stronger weapon in the intermediate game. Both had six touchdown catches. Dexter McCluster (5'8", 165) is an elusive playmaker. He is primarily a receiver but will also line up at running back and will take shotgun

34

Left tackle Michael Oher, who considered leaving early for the NFL, has started 34 consecutive games, including every game over the last two seasons.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE REBELS

Houston Nutt walks into a program with more talent than Ed Orgeron found in 2005, but he also inherits a tougher schedule. The non-conference games are not gimmes. Memphis always pushes Ole Miss and can be expected to do so again on Opening Day. The Rebels also play at Wake Forest. Win those two, and expectations will no doubt be reevaluated. The situation provides an excellent opportunity for Nutt to show his stuff right away. Ole Miss has an SEC-caliber quarterback under center for perhaps the first time since Eli Manning's senior season in 2003. Texas transfer Jevan Snead has arm strength, accuracy and mobility, and will benefit from a group of receivers that is both experienced and deep. The unanswered question on Snead is what decisions he'll make when it's game time and the speed of everything is faster. Snead is the biggest part of the equation, but not the only part. The Rebels must have successful man-coverage ability at cornerback, a position so thin in the spring that Nutt sent two offensive players there. One, receiver Marshay Green, made enough plays in April to earn a starting job heading into August. The Rebels have an All-America talent at end in Greg Hardy, but his maturity level kept him from earning a starting job with the new staff.



MIKE WALLACE

2008 SCHEDULE

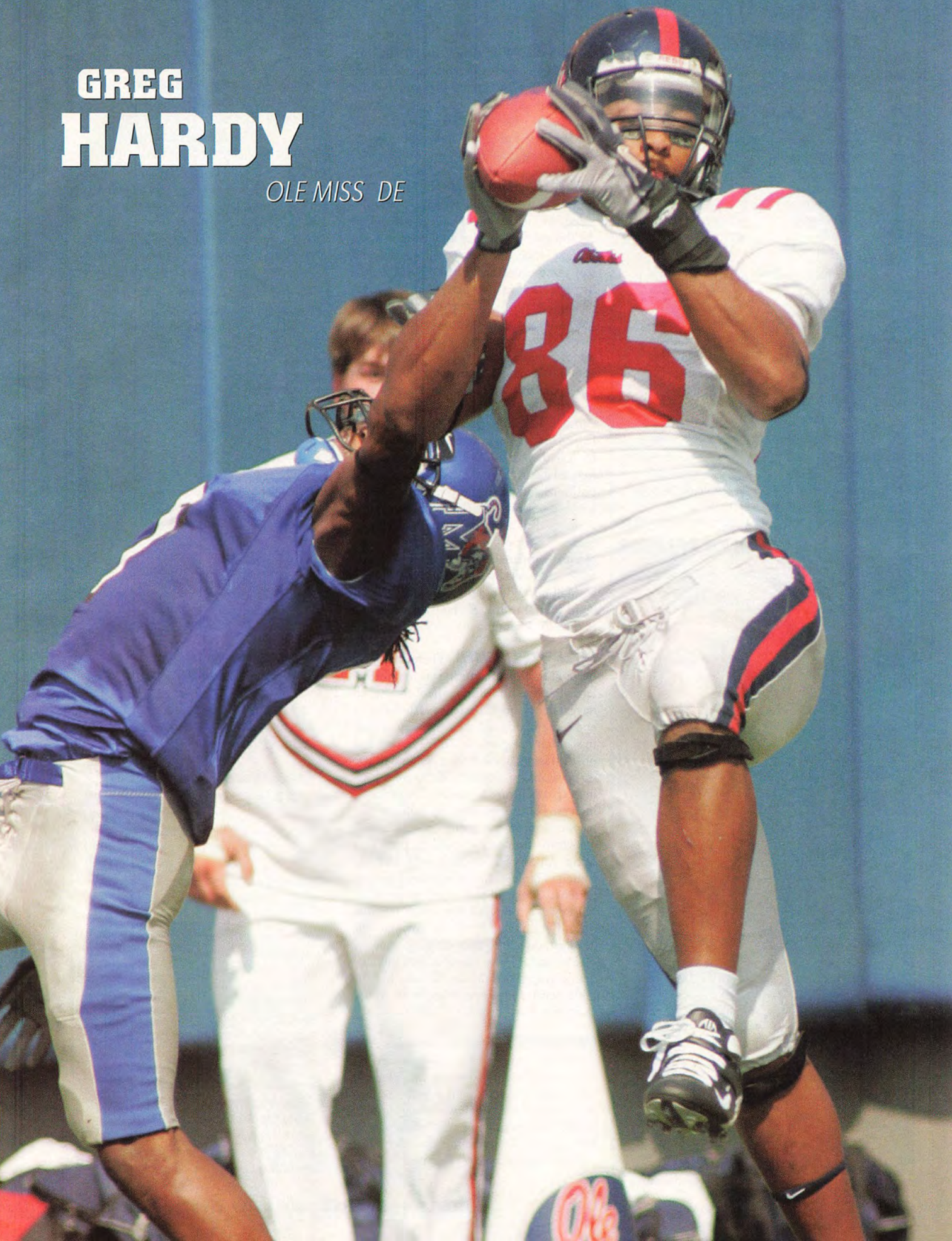
A. 30	Memphis	W
S. 6	at Wake Forest	L
S. 13	Samford	W
S. 20	Vanderbilt	*
S. 27	at Florida	L
O. 4	South Carolina	L
O. 18	at Alabama	L
O. 25	at Arkansas	*
N. 1	Auburn	L
N. 15	UL Monroe	W
N. 22	at LSU	L
N. 28	Mississippi State	*

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Hardy, Tim Clark/Athlon Sports; Wallace: Greg Abramowitz

GREG HARDY

OLE MISS DE



DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	3 Shay Hodge (Jr.)	2 Mike Wallace (Sr.)
WR	22 Dexter McCluster (Jr.)	16 Markeith Summers (So.)
LT	74 Michael Oher (Sr.)	78 Bradley Sowell (Fr.)
LG	71 Reid Neely (Jr.)	62 Don Mosley (So.)
C	72 Daverin Gerald (Jr.)	63 Brandon Green (Jr.)
RG	79 Maurice Miller (Sr.)	75 Rishaw Johnson (Fr.)
RT	77 John Jerry (Jr.)	50 Darryl Harris (Sr.)
TE	88 David Traxler (Sr.)	80 Gerald Harris (Jr.)
QB	4 Jevan Snead (So.)	17 Billy Tapp (Jr.)
FB	44 Jason Cook (Sr.)	43 Andy Hartmann (Jr.)
RB	25 Cordera Eason (Jr.)	Enrique Davis (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	92 Marcus Tillman (Jr.)	26 LaDerrick Vaughn (So.)
DT	99 Ted Laurent (So.)	Jerrell Powe (Fr.)
DT	98 Peria Jerry (Sr.)	96 Lawon Scott (So.)
DE	86 Greg Hardy (Jr.)	40 Kentrell Lockett (So.)
WLB	9 Allen Walker (So.)	Patrick Trahan (Jr.)
MLB	42 Jonathan Cornell (So.)	47 Tony Fein (Sr.)
SLB	11 Ashlee Palmer (Sr.)	58 Scottie Williams (So.)
CB	8 Marshay Green (Jr.)	9 Jeremy McGee (So.)
CB	12 Dustin Mouzon (Sr.)	24 Cassius Vaughn (Jr.)
SS	13 Jamarca Sanford (Sr.)	35 Fon Ingram (So.)
FS	20 Johnny Brown (So.)	1 Kendrick Lewis (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	93 Joshua Shene (Jr.)	KR	2 Mike Wallace (Sr.)
P	34 Justin Sparks (Jr.)	PR	22 Dexter McCluster (Jr.)

ASHLEE PALMER



snaps in the "Wild Rebel" formation with as much success as Darren McFadden had, Nutt hopes. "When he lines up behind those linemen he'll be hard to see, and he can go," Nutt says. Junior college transfer Gerald Harris gives the Rebels athleticism at tight end.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Nutt caught a break when left tackle Michael Oher decided another season of college ball would do him good. Now, guard John Jerry moves to right tackle, and offensive line coach and run game coordinator Mike Markuson is intrigued by his two players on the edge. "They're both 6'5", and they've got such great wingspan. That's what you need out there." Jerry missed spring drills with an internal infection that required minor surgery. He should be ready for the field in August. Markuson is hoping redshirt freshmen Bradley Sowell and Rishaw Johnson will develop into impact reserves. Senior Darryl Harris was granted a medical waiver for a sixth year of eligibility. He's an experienced hand who can play a number of positions and was a starter in the spring in Jerry's absence. While the line in general returns quality experience, there is no true center. Daverin Gerald was signed as an offensive lineman but was moved to defense and back by Orgeron, who praised his skill but didn't get him on the field beyond special teams. He had a good spring as the No. 1 center.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN Thanks in large part to Orgeron's recruiting efforts, the defensive line is a position where the Rebels have talent and experience. All-America end Greg Hardy led the league by averaging a sack per game in 2007. Hardy had off-field issues, though, that resulted in two suspensions by Orgeron, the second leaving Hardy's future in doubt. Nutt tried to increase Hardy's intensity by running him second team in the spring. His status will be worth monitoring early in preseason camp. All-SEC tackle Peria Jerry and end Marcus Tillman both bring talent and experience. The wild card in the group is Jerrell Powe. A prep All-American in 2004, the NCAA failed to certify Powe at Ole Miss in both 2006 and '07. Last year, the NCAA said if Powe passed classes this academic year it would certify him for the 2008 season. He appears to be on course to do just that.

LINEBACKERS Outside linebacker Ashlee Palmer, the team's leading tackler, returns, but this unit — which struggled last year — should have a new look. Sophomore Jonathan Cornell was a starter early in 2007 before missing most of the season with a pinched nerve in his shoulder. He'll go into August as No. 1 at middle line-

KEY REBELS

Greg Hardy, DE Made the Walter Camp All-America team last year after averaging an SEC-best 1.0 sack per game.

Peria Jerry, DT Second-team All-SEC choice last year has been a stabilizing force on the defensive front.

Jamarca Sanford, SS Has started 31 consecutive games and is one of the team's hardest tacklers.

Mike Wallace, WR Has the speed to get behind secondaries and pulled down six touchdown catches last year.

Michael Oher, OL Consensus All-SEC pick could be poised for strong finish as a senior after showing a more physical approach in the spring.



KEY LOSSES

BenJarvus Green-Ellis, RB Tough inside runner gained 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons.

Bruce Hall, RB Dependable backup and also a versatile player who contributed with big plays on special teams.

Corey Actis, C Only starter lost on the offensive line but leaves staff scrambling to develop a center.

Robert Lane, TE Former quarterback turned into productive blocker, dependable receiver.

Vicente DeLoach, DE Career role player provided depth and came up with big plays at the end of last season.

RISEING STAR

Linebacker **Patrick Trahan** redshirted at Auburn in 2005 and recorded 11 tackles in 2006 before transferring to Northwest (Miss.) Community College, where he earned All-America honors with 14 tackles for a loss and six sacks. He is expected to compete for a starting job and continue to be a disruptive force in the backfield.



Tim Clark/Athlon Sports



2008 OLE MISS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	54 Freeman, Terry	6-3/330	Sr.	Memphis, TN	45 Phillips, Jamie	6-0/220	Jr.	Oxford, MS	
13	Fowler, Clay	5-11/178	Fr.	Jackson, TN	72 Gerald's, Daverin	6-2/312	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA	59 Smith, Isaiah	6-0/234	Fr.	Columbia, TN	
6	Jones, Layton	6-4/215	So.	Greenville, MS	63 Green, Brandon	6-2/300	Jr.	Southaven, MS	53 Strong, Chris	6-2/280	So.	Batesville, MS	
7	Love, Omar	6-2/180	Jr.	Charleston, MS	50 Harris, Darryl	6-3/300	Sr.	Clarksdale, MS	41 Thomas, Brandon	5-11/245	Sr.	North Augusta, SC	
4	Snead, Jevan	6-3/215	So.	Stephenville, TX	67 Hurd, Paul	6-4/280	Sr.	Monroe, LA	44 Trip, Trey	6-1/230	Fr.	Buford, GA	
17	Tapp, Billy	6-4/230	Jr.	St. Petersburg, FL	65 Jean-Louis, Mark	6-2/355	Jr.	Palm Beach, FL	9 Walker, Allen	6-1/215	So.	Olive Branch, MS	
RUNNING BACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	77 Jerry, John	6-5/350	Jr.	Batesville, MS	58 Williams, Scottie	6-2/215	So.	Decatur, GA	
44	Cook, Jason	6-0/240	Sr.	Suwanee, GA	75 Johnson, Rishaw	6-4/295	Fr.	Hammond, LA	DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
30	Davis, Derrick	5-10/224	So.	Meridian, MS	79 Miller, Maurice	6-3/343	Sr.	West Helena, AR	40 Allcorn, Zane	5-10/198	Fr.	McKinney, TX	
25	Eason, Cordera	5-10/224	Jr.	Meridian, MS	62 Mosley, Don	6-1/300	So.	Tampa, FL	29 Arceneaux, Colby	5-7/185	So.	River Ridge, LA	
43	Hartmann, Andy	5-10/243	Jr.	Cooper City, FL	71 Neely, Reid	6-6/310	Jr.	Jackson, MS	37 Atterberry, Jamariey	5-10/182	Fr.	Kosciusko, MS	
32	Hicks, Reggie	6-1/234	So.	Madison, MS	74 Oher, Michael	6-5/318	Sr.	Memphis, TN	20 Brown, Johnny	5-11/207	So.	Charleston, MS	
36	Hoffman, Dan	6-2/222	Fr.	Miami, FL	70 Smith, Brent	6-4/293	Jr.	Madison, MS	42 Daniels, Kenny	6-0/198	Fr.	Esteros, FL	
28	Johnson, Jermaine	5-10/220	So.	Armory, MS	78 Sowell, Bradley	6-7/310	Fr.	Hernando, MS	8 Green, Marshay	5-9/170	Jr.	Bastrop, LA	
33	Stuart, Andrew	5-10/228	Fr.	Oxford, MS	73 Washington, Alex	6-4/337	Fr.	Monroe, LA	23 Helow, George	5-8/175	So.	Jacksonville, FL	
RECEIVERS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	35 Ingram, Fon	5-11/190	So.	Atlanta, GA
83	Adams, Chris	6-0/175	Sr.	Oxford, MS	94 Armour, LaMark	6-2/260	Jr.	Nashville, TN	5 Jackson, Terrell	5-10/200	Sr.	Puckett, MS	
21	Breaux, Lionel	6-0/191	So.	New Orleans, LA	89 Benedetto, Ben	6-1/240	So.	Metairie, LA	1 Lewis, Kendrick	5-11/192	Jr.	New Orleans, LA	
81	Cole, William	5-11/190	Jr.	Oxford, MS	97 Densmore, David	6-1/232	So.	Shalimar, FL	9 McGee, Jeremy	5-10/178	So.	New Orleans, LA	
80	Contartesi, Richard	5-7/163	So.	Lake Worth, FL	85 Frison, Cecil	6-3/234	So.	Memphis, TN	30 Mitchell, Jared	6-2/180	Fr.	Chesterfield, MO	
24	Dobbs, Billy	5-10/160	So.	Amory, MS	86 Hardy, Greg	6-4/265	Jr.	Millington, TN	12 Mouzon, Dustin	5-11/175	Sr.	Orlando, FL	
84	Hicks, Michael	6-2/222	Jr.	Jacksonville, FL	98 Jerry, Peria	6-2/290	Sr.	Batesville, MS	13 Sanford, Jamarca	5-10/200	Sr.	Batesville, MS	
3	Hodge, Shay	6-1/207	Jr.	Morton, MS	50 Juleff, Nathan	6-2/200	Fr.	Mandeville, LA	24 Vaughn, Cassius	5-10/185	Jr.	Memphis, TN	
87	Lucas, Jacarious	6-2/188	Sr.	Cleveland, MS	99 Laurent, Ted	6-0/303	So.	Powder Springs, GA	15 Whitehead, Julian	5-9/190	Fr.	Lilburn, GA	
22	McCluster, Dexter	5-8/165	Jr.	Largo, FL	40 Lockett, Kentrell	6-5/240	So.	Hahnville, LA	SPECIALISTS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN
27	McGlaum, Josh	5-7/155	Fr.	Oxford, MS	91 Sanders, Justin	6-4/300	Fr.	New Market, AL	87 Fisher, Martin (K)	5-10/172	Fr.	Greenwood, MS	
19	Moss, Vincent	5-11/185	Fr.	Munford, AL	96 Scott, Lawon	6-1/322	So.	St. Petersburg, FL	39 Foster, Will (P)	5-10/189	So.	Charlotte, NC	
16	Summers, Markeith	6-2/197	So.	Olive Branch, MS	95 Stephens, Emmanuel	6-3/235	Jr.	Houston, TX	46 Hankins, David (K)	6-3/213	Fr.	Shreveport, LA	
2	Wallace, Mike	6-0/180	Sr.	New Orleans, LA	92 Tillman, Marcus	6-4/260	Jr.	McCall Creek, MS	86 Meadows, Ben (K)	5-9/170	Fr.	Birmingham, AL	
26	Vaughn, LaDerrick	6-1/220	So.		26 Vaughn, LaDerrick	6-1/220	So.	Memphis, TN	36 Park, Rob (P)	5-11/194	Sr.	Memphis, TN	
TIGHT ENDS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	LINEBACKERS		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	69 Phillips, Wesley (LS)	5-11/208	So.	Madison, MS
80	Harris, Gerald	6-5/250	Jr.	Terrell, TX	95 Bowers, Chris	6-2/230	Sr.	Shreveport, LA	39 Powers, Bryan (P)	6-0/217	So.	Pacific, CA	
83	Jungles, Jared	6-5/236	Fr.	Brandon, MS	48 Brumfield, Lamar	6-0/224	Jr.	Lynwood, CA	68 Powers, Preston (LS)	6-0/240	Jr.	Collierville, TN	
82	Ryan, Garrett	6-3/234	Jr.	Marietta, GA	51 Burrus, Eric	6-0/214	Fr.	Collierville, TN	93 Shene, Joshua (K)	5-8/170	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK	
88	Traxler, David	6-6/255	Sr.	Jackson, MS	42 Cornell, Jonathan	6-1/225	So.	Azusa, CA	34 Sparks, Justin (K/P)	6-2/187	Jr.	Memphis, TN	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		HT/WT	CL	HOMETOWN	47 Fein, Tony	6-2/245	Sr.	Port Orchard, WA					
61	Brent, Zack	5-11/245	Fr.	Oxford, MS	55 Hargroder, Don	6-1/200	Jr.	Abbeville, LA					
64	Briscoe, Will	6-3/310	Fr.	Tupelo, MS	11 Palmer, Ashlee	6-2/222	Sr.	Compton, CA					

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9 (0-8 SEC)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE	ATT
S. 1	at Memphis	W	23-21	45,457
S. 8	Missouri	L	38-25	50,897
S. 15	at Vanderbilt	L	31-17	34,180
S. 22	Florida	L	30-24	55,032
S. 29	at Georgia	L	45-17	92,746
O. 6	Louisiana Tech	W	24-0	45,138
O. 13	Alabama	L	27-24	59,791
O. 20	Arkansas	L	44-8	52,671
O. 27	at Auburn	L	17-3	87,451
N. 3	Northwestern State	W	38-31	23,283
N. 17	LSU	L	41-24	61,118
N. 23	at Mississippi State	L	17-14	51,727

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Seth Adams	297	163	1,979	12	16
Brent Schaeffer	92	35	578	5	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	230	1,137	4.9	6	
Bruce Hall	53	234	4.4	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Shay Hodge	43	593	13.8	6	
Mike Wallace	38	716	18.8	6	
Marshay Green	31	260	8.4	0	
Dexter McCluster	27	326	12.1	2	

Kicking: Joshua Shene, 11-17 FGs, 24-25 XPs, 57 points
Tackles: Ashlee Palmer, 89; Tony Fein, 84
Sacks: Greg Hardy, 10
Interceptions: Ashlee Palmer, 3

Returning Players in Bold

backer. Sophomore Allen Walker was a highly touted recruit who got lost in the shuffle under Orgeron but won a starting job on the outside in the spring. His status for the fall is in question, however, after he was suspended indefinitely following an arrest on a DUI charge. Signee Patrick Trahan played at Auburn before spending last season at Northwest (Miss.) Community College. His quickness makes him a playmaker and a legitimate starting candidate in August.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Strong safety Jamarca Sanford is a senior who has started 31 games over the last three years and ranked seventh in the SEC in tackles per game in 2007. Free safety Johnny Brown is a rising star who got better as last season went along. The question marks are at corner. Senior Dustin Mouzon is capable at one side, but the other starter could be Green, whom Nutt moved from receiver in the spring.

SPECIALISTS Joshua Shene hit 11-of-17 field goals last year, down from the accuracy shown in his freshman season. Punter Justin Sparks is back. He took over kickoff chores late in the year and helped the team improve field position.

MICHAEL OHER



SCOUTING THE REBELS

OPPOSING COACHES SIZE UP OLE MISS "The talent at Ole Miss isn't as good as Houston (Nutt) had at Arkansas, but he will make them better. They will take a big leap. They will be harder to play. He is a good coach. He is not afraid to experiment and do things differently. He will find a way to get them to play their best. ... Their quarterback problems over the last two years were huge. That was the biggest issue. They just couldn't overcome it. They didn't have enough talent in other areas to overcome poor quarterback play. ... You had to run it right down their throat. When things didn't go well it could turn into a circus for them. ... Greg Hardy is a very good player. I wouldn't be surprised to see him play both ways next year. Houston will have him ready to go. ... Running the ball is a mindset. They had good players at Arkansas obviously, but it is about a philosophy and a belief by the coach, and that is what Houston is all about."

OUTSIDE THE HUDDLE

New faces on defense In an effort to add some playmakers to a struggling secondary, new coach Houston Nutt moved two players across the line of scrimmage during the spring. Marshay Green caught 31 balls last year and played a variety of offensive positions in high school but never played on defense. The same is true for Jeremy McGee, whose only time on defense was a two-week experiment when he was with UCLA in 2006. Nutt is hoping they can make plays in a secondary that lacks depth. Both adapted to the move nicely in the spring. Green was listed as a starter heading into August. New defensive coordinator Tyrone Nix called him one of the unit's most improved players of the spring.

The Powe factor If Jerrell Powe is certified by the NCAA he'll be a freshman and will play in a football game for the first time since 2005 while at Hargrave Military Academy. The NCAA declared Powe ineligible the last two seasons. Both times he participated in a handful of practices before the ruling was announced. He turned 21 years old on March 15.

The Olive Branch boys Two former touted recruits from Mississippi, linebacker Allen Walker and wide receiver Markeith Summers, had good springs and appear ready to contribute this season. Both went through position moves under former coach Ed Orgeron. Walker emerged from spring practice as a starter at outside linebacker, while Summers worked his way into the top rotation of receivers. Summers, at 6'2", is a little bit taller target than most of the receivers. Both players made various prep All-America teams at Olive Branch High School in 2005.

Wild Rebel Darren McFadden was a great running back at Arkansas regardless of the formation, but he seemed to excel in the "Wild Hog" where he took shotgun snaps. Houston Nutt has brought the same formation to Ole Miss and calls it the "Wild Rebel." The first option in the Wild Rebel will be 5'8" wide receiver Dexter McCluster. Elusive already, McCluster will have the additional advantage of being virtually unseen when he lines up and takes the snap behind offensive linemen who are well over 6'0" tall. McCluster will occasionally pass from the formation, but he's much more likely to just pick a hole and go. He was primarily a running back in high school but did have some exposure at quarterback and was an easy choice for Wild Rebel, Nutt said.

Oher: Tim Clark/Athlon Sports

2008 SIGNEES

The first Ole Miss recruiting class for Houston Nutt gave a clear indication of his offensive vision, and it looks a lot like his vision at Arkansas. Nutt signed five running backs; two of them will likely be placed to continue academic work, but three will have a chance to compete for playing time this fall.

The centerpiece of the class is tailback Enrique Davis, a former Auburn signee who spent last year at a prep school.

Devin Thomas and Brandon Bolden will also get strong looks. Thomas was one of the top players in South Texas, but he will have to prove he hasn't lost a step after a broken ankle ended his senior season.

Running backs aren't very effective without the right linemen up front, and Nutt signed four — all at least 315 pounds. The heavyweight in the group is Kermit Tyler, a 6'4", 335-pounder from New Orleans.

Nutt addressed his depth in the secondary with eight defensive backs, including two former prep school players who were able to participate in spring drills.

Junior college transfer Gerald Harris gives the Rebels good hands and athleticism at tight end. He could get on the field quickly at a position vacated by two seniors.

The class includes two quarterbacks whom Nutt hopes to redshirt, though there's little depth behind starter Jevan Snead. Either Chris Wilkes, a 6'4", 220-pound drop-back passer, or Nathan Stanley, a more mobile, 6'5", 195-pound quarterback, could find themselves under center if Snead is injured.

RECRUITING BREAKDOWN

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

ENRIQUE DAVIS • RB • LYNN HAVEN, FL

The running back position at Ole Miss looks to be a wide-open competition in August, and Enrique Davis expects to be right in the middle of it. As he completed his prep career in Lynn Haven, Fla., in 2006, Davis was ranked the No. 3 running back prospect in the country by one recruiting service. He signed with Auburn but did not qualify academically and ended up at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy. He continued to excel on the football field and was ranked by both Rivals.com and Scout.com as the No. 1 post-graduate player in the country.

If Houston Nutt's plans for Davis were not clear enough, they became evident when the coach moved UCLA transfer Jeremy McGee to defense in spring drills.

Nutt believes Davis will make an impact. Junior tailback Corderea Eason emerged from spring as the starter, but the Rebels have no running backs with significant game experience.

"There's a reason everybody wants him, and that's because he's a difference-maker," says Nutt, with confidence.

"He's a solid 212 pounds and runs a 4.4 40. He runs downhill and will hit you in the mouth and then outrun you."



FERBIA ALLEN	DE	6'5"	225	PINE BLUFF, AR
Had 14 sacks on defense; 500 receiving yards and five TDs on offense in '07.				
BRANDON BOLDEN	RB	5'11"	215	BATON ROUGE, LA
Ranked No. 21 prospect in Louisiana, No. 34 running back in nation by Rivals.com.				
ENRIQUE DAVIS	RB	6'1"	212	LYNN HAVEN, FL
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 1 prep prospect by Rivals.com.				
E.J. EPPERSON	TE	6'3"	230	HUMBOLDT, TN
Ranked No. 25 prospect in Tennessee by Scout.com. Named Class 2A All-State.				
BRANDON GREEN	OL	6'2"	315	SOUTHAVEN, MS
Northwest Mississippi CC transfer. Played in Mississippi JUCO All-Star Game.				
H.R. GREER	FB	6'0"	225	OLIVE BRANCH, MS
Rushed for 1,840 yards and 31 TDs as senior. Ranked No. 14 fullback by ESPN.com.				
ANDREW HARRIS	WR	6'2"	195	ST. PETERSBURG, FL
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 10 prep prospect by Rivals.com.				
GERALD HARRIS	TE	6'5"	245	TERRELL, TX
Navarro (TX) College transfer. Ranked No. 78 JUCO prospect by SuperPrep.				
MELVIN HARRIS	WR	6'6"	185	BUFORD, GA
Named first-team Class 2A All-State by GSWA. Member of 15-0 state champs.				
AARON HAWKINS	OL	6'3"	315	LITHONIA, GA
First-team Class 5A All-State by GSWA. Ranked No. 22 center by Scout.com.				
LEKENWIC HAYNES	DB	6'3"	200	ROSENBERG, TX
Ranked No. 52 outside linebacker by ESPN.com. Recorded four INTs as a junior.				
DERRICK HERMAN	DB	5'11"	185	CLEVELAND, MS
Ranked No. 19 prospect in Mississippi and No. 37 corner in nation by Rivals.com.				
JASON JONES	LB	6'2"	220	ALBANY, GA
Named first-team Class 3A All-State by GSWA. Recorded 154 tackles as senior.				
RANDALL MACKEY	ATH	6'1"	180	BASTROP, LA
Named Parade All-American, Mr. Football and Class 4A Offensive MVP by LSWA.				
DEMAREO MARR	DB	6'2"	180	SOUTHAVEN, MS
NW Mississippi CC transfer. Ranked No. 11 JUCO in the state by Sun Herald.				
HUNTER MILLER	DB	6'1"	185	SHERWOOD, AR
Recorded 25 total TDs on offense; 35 tackles and two INTs on defense in '07.				
JARED MITCHELL	DB	6'3"	190	CHESTERFIELD, MO
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 39 prep prospect by Rivals.com.				
GERALD RIVERS	DE	6'5"	240	ELLENWOOD, GA
Registered 81 tackles, nine sacks and two forced fumbles as a senior.				
BRANDON SANDERS	DB	6'0"	190	SUWANEE, GA
Ranked No. 57 player in Georgia by Scout.com, No. 71 corner in nation by ESPN.com.				
JUSTIN SMITH	DL	6'4"	280	ALPHARETTA, GA
Ranked No. 40 strong-side end and No. 50 prospect in Georgia by Rivals.com.				
NATHAN STANLEY	QB	6'5"	195	TAHLEQUAH, OK
Ranked No. 11 prospect in Oklahoma, No. 23 quarterback in country by Rivals.com.				
EMMANUEL STEPHENS	DE	6'2"	220	HOUSTON, TX
Blinn (TX) CC transfer. Named first-team All-America by NJCAA in '07.				
ANDRE STERLING	RB	5'10"	200	KNOXVILLE, TN
Rushed for 2,784 yards and 30 TDs as senior; 1,522 yards and 17 TDs as junior.				
JOSHUA TATUM	OL	6'5"	315	MARBURY, AL
Named first-team Class 3A All-State by ASWA as a senior.				
DEVIN THOMAS	RB	5'11"	195	SAN ANTONIO, TX
Ranked No. 21 running back in nation by Rivals.com. Had 17 TDs in six games in '07.				
PATRICK TRAHAN	LB	6'3"	225	NEW ORLEANS, LA
Northwest Mississippi CC transfer. Named second-team All-America by NJCAA.				
KERMIT TYLER	OL	6'4"	335	MARRERO, LA
Ranked No. 34 prospect in Louisiana and No. 49 guard in nation by Scout.com.				
JULIAN WHITEHEAD	DB	5'10"	180	LILBURN, GA
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 33 prep prospect by Rivals.com.				
CHRIS WILKES	QB	6'4"	220	ORLANDO, FL
Ranked No. 49 quarterback by Scout.com. Played in Central Florida HS All-Star Game.				
HORATIO WILLIAMS	WR	6'2"	175	OXFORD, MS
Ranked No. 15 prospect in Mississippi and No. 53 athlete in nation by Rivals.com.				
RUDY WILSON	DB	6'0"	200	PORT ORANGE, FL
Attended Hargrave Military Academy. Ranked No. 48 prep prospect by Rivals.com.				

preview

It was a strange offseason for Conference USA, which said goodbye to its dean of coaches and welcomed one of the highest-profile additions in the league's history.

Southern Miss dismissed Jeff Bower, a former Golden Eagle quarterback and the program's coach since the early 1990s. And SMU enticed Hawaii's June Jones to leave a tropical paradise and a program he led to a BCS bowl for a major rebuilding project. Jones left Hawaii, a team he directed to the Sugar Bowl, for SMU, which went 1-11 last year and 0-8 in C-USA. Former Oklahoma State offensive coordinator Larry Fedora steps in for Bower, who was fired despite 14 consecutive winning seasons and 10 bowl appearances in 11 years. Southern Miss boosters felt the program had stagnated. Fedora will install a spread offense that has become the standard in C-USA in hopes of boosting Southern Miss' offensive numbers. The Golden Eagles ranked near the bottom of the league in scoring (ninth), total offense (10th) and pass offense (11th).

Jones' team should have no difficulty scoring points. He went 12-1 in his final season at Hawaii and was known for his wide-open, pass-happy run 'n' shoot offense. During Jones' final



DAMION FLETCHER

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

C-USA EAST

1. EAST CAROLINA
2. UCF
3. MEMPHIS
4. SOUTHERN MISS
5. MARSHALL
6. UAB

C-USA WEST

1. TULSA
2. HOUSTON
3. UTEP
4. SMU
5. RICE
6. TULANE

C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TULSA OVER EAST CAROLINA

repeat as West Division champions. The Golden Hurricane lost the league's Offensive Player of the Year in quarterback Paul Smith, but return arguably C-USA's top offensive coordinator — Gus Malzahn — to work with talented receivers Brennan Marion (1,244 yards receiving, 31.9 per catch) and Trae Johnson (1,088 yards, 13 touchdowns) and running back Tarrion Adams (1,225 rushing yards, eight TDs).

As far as the East Division, it once again is expected to come down to a battle between East Carolina and UCF, last year's champion. East Carolina has made steady progress under Skip Holtz, who guided the Pirates to back-to-back bowl games in 2006 and '07, a first for the program since 2000 and '01. ECU ended last season with an upset win over 24th-ranked Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl and should be strong defensively, too. UCF may have lost its inside track with the departure of running back Kevin Smith, who opted out early for the NFL, but the Knights should be among the league's strongest defensive units. Under Fedora, Southern Miss could be a factor in the race behind Damion Fletcher, the league's best running back, Shawn Nelson, the league's top tight end, and DeAndre Brown, a 6'6" freshman receiver and the prize of last spring's highly regarded signing class.

2008 ATHLON SPORTS PRESEASON ALL-C-USA TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Chase Clement	6'1"	208	Sr.	Rice
RB	Tarrion Adams	6'1"	205	Sr.	Tulsa
RB	Damion Fletcher	5'10"	175	Jr.	Southern Miss
WR	Jarett Dillard	5'11"	185	Sr.	Rice
WR	Brennan Marion	6'1"	185	Sr.	Tulsa
TE	Shawn Nelson	6'5"	240	Sr.	Southern Miss
C	Robby Felix	6'3"	295	Sr.	UTEP
OL	Patrick Brown	6'5"	292	Sr.	UCF
OL	Ryan McKee	6'6"	275	Sr.	Southern Miss
OL	Michael Parenton	6'2"	292	Sr.	Tulane
OL	Brandon Pearce	6'6"	300	Sr.	Memphis

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Moton Hopkins	6'3"	275	Sr.	Tulsa
DL	Phillip Hunt	6'2"	250	Sr.	Houston
DL	Clinton McDonald	6'3"	265	Sr.	Memphis
DL	Zack Slate	6'5"	221	Sr.	East Carolina
LB	Albert McClellan	6'2"	259	Jr.	Marshall
LB	Gerald McRath	6'3"	215	Jr.	Southern Miss
LB	Brian Raines	6'1"	222	Sr.	Rice
CB	C.J. Bailey	5'10"	182	So.	Southern Miss
CB	Joe Burnett	5'11"	185	Sr.	UCF
S	Van Eskridge	6'0"	200	Jr.	East Carolina
S	Kenneth Fontenette	6'0"	180	Sr.	Houston

FIRST TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Jose Martinez	5'10"	200	Sr.	UTEP
P	Thomas Morstead	6'5"	215	Sr.	SMU
KR	Roy Roberts	5'11"	205	Sr.	Tulsa
PR	Joe Burnett	5'11"	185	Sr.	UCF

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB	Trevor Vittatoe	6'2"	215	So.	UTEP
RB	Darius Marshall	5'10"	193	So.	Marshall
RB	Charles Clay	6'3"	222	So.	Tulsa
WR	Duke Calhoun	6'4"	195	Jr.	Memphis
WR	Jeff Moturi	6'0"	185	Jr.	UTEP
TE	Cody Slate	6'4"	220	Jr.	Marshall
C	Carl Barnett	6'3"	285	Jr.	Houston
OL	David Berken	6'4"	295	Sr.	Rice
OL	Doug Palmer	6'3"	300	Jr.	East Carolina
OL	Jake Seitz	6'2"	290	Jr.	UAB
OL	Sebastian Vollmer	6'8"	290	Sr.	Houston

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL	Ell Ash	6'5"	275	Sr.	Houston
DL	Bruce Miller	6'2"	249	So.	UCF
DL	Reggie Scott	6'3"	255	Sr.	Tulane
DL	C.J. Wilson	6'4"	271	Jr.	East Carolina
LB	Quentin Cotton	6'2"	224	Sr.	East Carolina
LB	Derrick Hallman	6'0"	205	So.	UCF
LB	Joe Henderson	6'2"	220	Sr.	UAB
CB	Johnell Neal	5'10"	176	Sr.	UCF
CB	Roy Roberts	5'11"	205	Sr.	Tulsa
S	Andrew Sendejo	6'1"	213	Jr.	Rice
S	C.J. Spillman	6'0"	193	Sr.	Marshall

SECOND TEAM SPECIALISTS

K	Swayze Waters	6'0"	170	Sr.	UAB
P	Britt Barefoot	6'0"	181	Sr.	Southern Miss
KR	Kevin Sanders	5'11"	185	Sr.	UAB
PR	Dwayne Harris	6'0"	198	So.	East Carolina

2007 C-USA STANDINGS

EAST	C-USA	OVERALL
UCF	7-1	10-4
EAST CAROLINA	6-2	8-5
MEMPHIS	6-2	7-6
SOUTHERN MISS	5-3	7-6
MARSHALL	3-5	3-9
UAB	1-7	2-10
WEST	SEC	OVERALL
TULSA	6-2	10-4
HOUSTON	6-2	8-5
TULANE	3-5	4-8
RICE	3-5	3-9
UTEP	2-6	4-8
SMU	0-8	1-11

2008 UNIT RANKINGS

	QB	RB	WR/TE	OL	DL	LB	DB
EAST CAROLINA	6	8	11	3	1	3	4
HOUSTON	1	7	7	2	3	8	2
MARSHALL	10	3	5	7	10	5	3
MEMPHIS	7	10	2	8	5	7	9
RICE	2	9	3	10	6	11	7
SMU	5	5	8	12	11	12	11
SOUTHERN MISS	9	2	9	4	7	1	5
TULANE	11	11	10	9	12	6	12
TULSA	4	1	1	1	4	10	8
UAB	12	12	12	11	9	4	10
UCF	8	6	6	6	2	2	1
UTEP	3	4	4	5	8	9	6



CHASE CLEMENT

C-USA RETURNING LEADERS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	INT	PCT	YDS	TD	AVG/G
Chase Clement, Rice	508	300	16	59.1	3,377	29	281.4
Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP	407	224	7	55.0	3,101	25	258.4
Justin Willis, SMU	414	242	18	58.5	2,944	25	245.3
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG	
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss	295	1,586	5.4	15	122.0	40	
Tarrion Adams, Tulsa	219	1,225	5.6	8	87.5	51	
Justin Willis, SMU	179	713	4.0	3	59.4	48	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	AVG/G	LONG	
Brennan Marion, Tulsa	39	1,244	31.9	11	88.9	75	
Jarett Dillard, Rice	79	1,057	13.4	14	88.1	60	

TACKLES: Gerald McRath, Southern Miss (139); C.J. Spillman, Marshall (131)

SACKS: Phillip Hunt, Houston (10.5); Two players tied with 7

2007 C-USA TEAM STATS & RANKINGS

	OFFENSE							DEFENSE						
	SCORE		RUSH		PASS		TOTAL	SCORE		RUSH		PASS		TOTAL
EAST CAROLINA	31.0	(6)	182.9	(5)	202.5	(9)	385.5 (11)	30.4	(4)	142.2	(5)	289.0	(9)	431.2 (5)
HOUSTON	34.5	(3)	223.9	(2)	278.0	(4)	501.9 (2)	29.2	(3)	139.8	(4)	225.8	(1)	365.6 (1)
MARSHALL	24.8	(10)	141.8	(9)	271.1	(6)	412.8 (6)	34.2	(8)	191.0	(7)	259.8	(6)	450.8 (7)
MEMPHIS	29.2	(7)	137.8	(10)	305.8	(2)	443.6 (3)	32.2	(6)	202.5	(10)	239.0	(5)	441.5 (6)
RICE	31.4	(5)	110.9	(11)	293.1	(3)	404.0 (8)	42.9	(12)	198.4	(9)	312.4	(12)	510.8 (12)
SMU	28.3	(8)	171.3	(7)	252.1	(7)	423.4 (4)	39.8	(11)	197.2	(8)	301.4	(10)	498.7 (10)
SOUTHERN MISS	27.8	(9)	201.6	(3)	188.1	(11)	389.7 (10)	24.2	(1)	134.3	(3)	232.1	(3)	366.4 (2)
TULANE	24.4	(11)	201.0	(4)	194.9	(10)	395.9 (9)	31.2	(5)	132.6	(1)	287.7	(8)	420.2 (4)
TULSA	41.1	(1)	172.9	(6)	371.0	(1)	543.9 (1)	33.4	(7)	185.2	(6)	266.6	(7)	451.9 (8)
UAB	19.6	(12)	110.2	(12)	215.3	(8)	325.6 (12)	35.1	(9)	256.8	(12)	230.8	(2)	487.6 (9)
UCF	35.9	(2)	234.8	(1)	176.9	(12)	411.6 (7)	26.6	(2)	133.1	(2)	233.3	(4)	366.4 (3)
UTEP	33.6	(4)	147.7	(8)	275.2	(5)	422.8 (5)	37.1	(10)	202.9	(11)	301.8	(11)	504.8 (11)

2007 C-USA BOWL RESULTS

NEW ORLEANS BOWL DEC. 21 NEW ORLEANS, LA.: **FLORIDA ATLANTIC 44, MEMPHIS 27**
 PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL DEC. 22 BIRMINGHAM, ALA.: **CINCINNATI 31, SOUTHERN MISS 21**
 SHERATON HAWAII BOWL DEC. 23 HONOLULU, HAWAII: **EAST CAROLINA 41, BOISE STATE 38**
 TEXAS BOWL DEC. 28 HOUSTON, TEXAS: **TCU 20, HOUSTON 13** • LIBERTY BOWL DEC. 29 MEMPHIS, TENN.: **MISSISSIPPI STATE 10, UCF 3**
 GMAC BOWL JAN. 6 MOBILE, ALA.: **TULSA 63, BOWLING GREEN 7**

NATIONAL
FORECAST

59

PIRATES

C-USA EAST
PREDICTION

1

EAST CAROLINA
pirates

HEAD COACH: SKIP HOLTZ **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 20-17 (3 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 54-40 (8 YEARS)
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: STEVE SHANKWEILER, TODD FITCH **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** GREG HUDSON
 GREENVILLE, N.C. DOWDY-FICKLEN STADIUM (43,000)

Skip Holtz hasn't wasted any time in righting the Pirates' ship. He took over an East Carolina program in 2005 that had won only three games in two years, and he has steadily built a contender, with back-to-back winning seasons and bowl appearances among the recent booty. The next step: a Conference USA title. Surprising late-season conference losses the last two years have knocked the Pirates off-course, and now they're rebuilding at some skill positions and hoping their defense can get to another level. Holtz thinks ECU is close, but the Pirates need more consistency at quarterback and in pass defense, and they must navigate a treacherous schedule.

QUARTERBACKS As if there weren't enough options in Holtz' quarterback merry-go-round from last year with Patrick Pinkney and Rob Kass, wide receiver Dwayne Harris was getting a decent share of snaps under center again this spring. A senior, Pinkney finished strong in leading ECU to the 41-38 Hawaii Bowl victory over Boise State, and he started five games, accounting for 1,358 yards and 11 touchdowns passing. He is the more versatile runner. Kass, who started seven games and threw for 1,164 yards and nine scores, is a more prototypical pocket passer. While Holtz says he hopes one of his veteran returnees will take the job, he's not adverse to the rotation, and in fact, has already schemed the uber-athletic Harris into special situations.

RUNNING BACKS On paper, the loss of national all-purpose yardage leader Chris Johnson seems a crippling blow, but the Pirates actually had some depth, starting with rising seniors Dominique Lindsay and Brandon Simmons. Lindsay was the third-leading rusher on the team with 205 yards and five scores last year, while Simmons played in 12 games but had only 11 rushing attempts. Lindsay is the most experienced candidate, and Holtz spent all spring talking about the seniors, but don't be surprised if C-USA All-Freshman selection Jonathan Williams emerges.

8 The Pirates were 8-5 last season, the program's highest win total in seven seasons. That mark included a school-best 6-2 record and second place finish in Conference USA's East Division.

RECEIVERS Jamar Bryant and the ubiquitous Harris are the wideouts, and that means the passing game should be potent. Bryant led the team with 48 catches for 704 yards and six TDs last season, and Harris, bigger and stronger than a year ago, will play a more significant role. Now the Pirates need a couple more young receivers to come through to fill out their multiple receiver sets. The leading candidates have exactly five catches among them, all by senior T.J. Lee, who sat out in the spring with a shoulder injury.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN There's a great blend of experience along with some blossoming young talent along an offensive line that could be much improved. Senior left tackle Stanley Bryant and junior right guard Doug Palmer are back. Senior Fred Hicks, back from an ankle injury, should reclaim his job at center from Stephen Heis. Sophomore D.J. Scott, who started the first eight games last year, took the right tackle job in the spring, and junior college transfer T.J. Harper has the goods at left guard.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Pirates are loaded up front with all four starters back. At end, senior Zack Slate and junior C.J. Wilson were both second-team All-Conference USA selections. Junior tackle Jay Ross was honorable mention and Linal Joseph was on the C-USA All-Freshman squad, splitting time with rising senior Khalif Mitchell, yet another honorable mention all-conference pick. Now, all that talent needs to translate into a stronger pass rush.

LINEBACKERS Quentin Cotton is a preseason Butkus Award candidate, and Pierre Bell was honorable mention all-conference. The seniors should be bookends around whoever replaces Fred Wilson in the middle, likely junior Jeremy Chambliss, who missed the spring after surgery on his shoulder. Cotton is a big-play specialist, and Bell averaged 7.5 tackles per game.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Pirate secondary ranked 114th nationally in pass defense in 2007, allowing 289 yards per game, but there is some talent and experience here. Safety Van Eskridge led the team with 8.0 tackles per game in earning second team C-USA honors. Senior J.J. Millbrook, who came on to start the last three games, led the team with three interceptions, and ECU did come up with some ball-hawking plays.

SPECIALISTS Junior kicker Ben Hartman has hit a school-record 59 consecutive extra points, and he hit late, game-winning field goals against North Carolina and Boise State last fall. Junior punter Matt Dodge averaged 41.3 yards per boot and put 24 kicks inside the 20-yard line. Johnson, one of the nation's most dangerous kick returners, is gone.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE PIRATES

Pirate fans are happy with their team under Skip Holtz. East Carolina is now a high-scoring, swashbuckling unit that's a legitimate challenger for the Conference-USA championship. And what fan wouldn't love a non-conference schedule that includes Virginia Tech and NC State nearby and West Virginia at home? And that's just in the first four games before C-USA play heats up. Is it too much, too soon? Is athletic director Terry Holland putting too much on Holtz? Holtz's famous father Lou thinks so and has said as much. Whatever the case, East Carolina is a winner again and seemingly building and getting better every year under Holtz and his staff. If that tough early season schedule doesn't beat them up too badly, if the quarterback situation takes care of itself and if either Dwayne Harris or Jonathan Williams (or better yet, both) join Jamar Bryant as big-play men, ECU can be as good as anyone in the league. The defense, with all those starters back, has to be better, too, and at last, maybe that's the formula to propel the Pirates to the conference championship game — the next logical step for a program seemingly on the cusp of something special.



JAMAR BRYANT

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	#Virginia Tech	L
S. 6	West Virginia	L
S. 13	at Tulane	W
S. 20	at NC State	*
S. 27	Houston	*
O. 11	at Virginia	*
O. 18	Memphis	W
N. 2	at UCF	*
N. 8	Marshall	W
N. 15	at Southern Miss	*
N. 22	at UAB	W
N. 28	UTEP	W
#Charlotte, NC		

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Kevin Cox/Getty Images



2008 EAST CAROLINA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

11	Clay, Brett
14	Kass, Rob
4	Mazzone, Taylor
15	Pinkney, Patrick

RUNNING BACKS

1	Ballard, Darnell
33	Brockmeyer, Justin
45	Gidrey, Kevin
39	Herlocker, Ben
	Jones, Derrick
24	Lindsay, Dominique
6	Rogers, J.R.
25	Simmons, Brandon
43	Simmons, Jason
	Ward, David
33	Whitley, Norman
2	Williams, Jonathan

RECEIVERS

22	Bowman, Michael
84	Brumsey, Javon
10	Bryant, Jamar
81	Freney, Darryl
	Green, Anthony
17	Harris, Dwayne
7	Lee, T.J.
12	McFadden, D.J.
	Nowell, Erik
26	Pittman, Wes
80	Taylor, Alex
	Terrell, Terrance
85	Waymon, DeMorio
8	Willis, Reyn

TIGHT ENDS

86	Byrd, Michael
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HT/WT CL

6-3/210	Jr.
6-4/255	Jr.
6-1/197	Jr.
6-0/198	Sr.

HT/WT CL

5-7/190	Jr.
5-10/201	Jr.
6-2/260	So.
6-0/219	Fr.
6-1/235	Sr.
5-10/210	Sr.
5-11/197	Jr.
6-1/223	Sr.
6-0/237	Sr.
5-11/242	Sr.
5-9/187	So.
6-1/196	So.

HT/WT CL

5-9/165	Fr.
6-4/191	So.
6-2/208	Jr.
5-11/196	Fr.
6-2/192	So.
6-0/198	So.
6-0/207	Sr.
6-2/217	Fr.
5-9/163	Jr.
5-11/203	So.
6-4/207	Jr.
5-10/173	So.
6-3/185	Fr.
6-3/215	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-4/235	Fr.
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HOMETOWN

Concord, NC
Longwood, FL
Raleigh, NC
Fayetteville, NC

HOMETOWN

Fayetteville, NC
Pasadena, MD
Virginia Beach, VA
Charlotte, NC
Elizabethtown, NC
Charlotte, NC
Raleigh, NC
Newton Grove, NC
Newton Grove, NC
Raleigh, NC
Hamlet, NC
Greenville, NC

HOMETOWN

Wadesboro, NC
Elizabeth City
Hamlet, NC
Suffolk, VA
Concord, NC
Stone Mountain, GA
Raleigh, NC
Charlotte, NC
Charlotte, NC
Raleigh, NC
Greensboro, NC
San Antonio, TX
Tallahassee, FL
Lynchburg, VA

HOMETOWN

Thomasville, NC

3 Drew, Davon

87	Kraemer, J.R.
85	Tanski, Martin
89	Towery, Will

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

54	Allen, Sean
78	Bryant, Stanley
74	Campbell, Terence
75	Dowless, Cory
60	Farr, Andrew
72	Heis, Stephen
57	Hicks, Fred
64	Melvin, Travis
70	Palmer, Doug
63	Polochak, Doug
66	Scott, D.J.
	Smith, Andrew

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

99	Allison, Antonio
56	Atkins, Chris
93	Danso, Kwaku
92	Hands, Marcus
46	Johnson, A.J.
97	Joseph, Linval
93	Mercer, Maurice
98	Mitchell, Khalif
53	Robinson, Scotty
90	Ross, Jay
79	Setzer, Brandon
41	Slate, Zack
94	Smith, Willie
95	Wilson, C.J.

LINEBACKERS

34	Bell, Pierre
49	Chambliss, Jeremy

6-4/254 Sr.

6-5/243	Sr.
6-3/245	Jr.
6-5/282	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-3/307	Jr.
6-5/282	Sr.
6-5/320	Jr.
6-5/287	So.
6-4/279	So.
6-5/285	Jr.
6-0/304	Sr.
6-6/291	So.
6-3/300	Jr.
6-4/284	So.
6-6/324	So.
6-0/239	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-4/297	Fr.
6-3/242	So.
6-6/345	Jr.
6-5/281	Sr.
6-2/256	So.
6-6/358	So.
6-5/259	Fr.
6-6/306	Fr.
6-4/246	Jr.
6-3/306	Jr.
6-6/335	Sr.
6-5/221	So.
6-6/276	So.
6-4/271	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/231	Sr.
6-0/227	Jr.

New Bern, NC

Wildwood, MO
Raleigh, NC
Asheville, NC

HOMETOWN

Wilson, NC
Goldsboro, NC
Maxton, NC
Franklinville, NC
Pell City, AL
Cincinnati, OH
Seffner, FL
Fayetteville, NC
Fayetteville, NC
Ponte Vedra Bch., FL
Green Cove Sprs., FL
Huntersville, NC

HOMETOWN

Statesville, NC
Chattahoochee, FL
Kumasi, Ghana
Wilmington, NC
Atlanta, GA
Alachua, FL
Nashville, NC
Virginia Beach, VA
Salisbury, NC
Wilmington, NC
Thomasville, NC
Melbourne, FL
Kenly, NC
Belhaven, NC

HOMETOWN

Vanceboro, NC
Tyrone, GA

50 Cotton, Quentin

58	Haynes, Austin
44	Johnson, Nick
	Lineback, Dustin

HOMETOWN

55	Mack, Dalvon
31	Osborne, Lorenzo
9	Patterson, Melvin
40	Perryman, Cliff
57	Quintanilla, Juan
55	Spence, Steve
28	Thompson, Matt

DEFENSIVE BACKS

1	Best, Leon
26	Blacknall, Derek
24	Bullock, Jeremy
37	Carter, Julian
	Davis, Emanuel
4	Eskridge, Van
27	Hampton, Spencer
35	Hewett, Jerek
23	Marshall, Dekota
19	Mattocks, Chris
20	Milbrook, J.J.
21	Reynolds, Darryl
13	Simmons, Travis
40	von Bargen, Kurtis
27	Wallace, Devon

SPECIALISTS

14	Dodge, Matt (P/K)
30	Hartman, Ben (K)
55	Paderick, Murphy (K)
5	Przezrski, Nathan (P)
59	Raynor, Wilson (LS)
13	Sloan, Joseph (H)

6-2/224 Sr.

6-2/212	Fr.
6-1/215	Jr.
5-11/229	So.
6-0/220	Sr.
6-3/202	Jr.
6-3/219	So.
6-1/225	Fr.
6-0/241	Sr.
6-2/215	Fr.
6-2/203	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-0/205	Sr.
5-11/187	Fr.
6-0/195	Jr.
6-2/191	Fr.
5-11/187	Fr.
6-0/200	Jr.
5-10/202	So.
5-11/195	Sr.
6-1/195	So.
6-0/210	Jr.
5-9/191	Sr.
6-1/189	So.
5-10/179	So.
5-10/195	Sr.
6-2/198	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/220	Jr.
5-11/210	Jr.
5-11/211	So.
6-5/195	So.
6-2/235	Sr.
5-11/174	Jr.

High Point, NC

Jacksonville, NC
Charlotte, NC
Climax, NC
Fayetteville, NC
Atlanta, GA
Alachua, FL
Richmond, VA
Faison, NC
Norfolk, VA
Mebane, NC

HOMETOWN

Kinston, NC
Greensboro, NC
Littleton, NC
New Bern, NC
Manteo, NC
Shelby, NC
Greenville, NC
Shallotte, NC
Jacksonville, NC
New Bern, NC
Miami, FL
New Bern, NC
Tallahassee, FL
Midlothian, VA
Burlington, NC

HOMETOWN

Morehead City, NC
Winston-Salem, NC
Sanford, NC
Black Mountain, NC
Dunn, NC
Chester, VA

2008 SIGNEES

Dayon Arrington	WR	6-2	205
C.J. Brown	OL	6-4	315
Mike Brown	TE	6-4	230
Josh Clark	OL	6-4	265
Allen Crowder	DL	6-2	260
Dalton Faulds	OL	6-3	285
Anthony Garner	DL	6-1	290
Grant Harner	OL	6-6	300
T.J. Harper	OL	6-2	315
Jacobi Jenkins	WR	6-0	175
Adrian Jones	ATH	5-11	180
Robert Jones	DL	6-3	260
Josh Jordan	QB	6-4	210
Max Joyner	LB	6-2	191
Logan Kudlinski	OL	6-5	265
Rahkeem Morgan	DB	6-0	180
Leonard Paulk	DB	5-11	180
Justin Venable	DB	6-1	185
Joe Womack	WR	6-1	195

ECU's incoming class is heavy in linemen in more ways than one, as Skip Holtz emphasized getting bigger up front. Among the newcomers are nine linemen, four 290-plus pounds. Holtz has called the group a "program class," one to develop as ECU turns the corner into a consistent winner. T.J. Harper, a junior college transfer who enrolled at ECU in January, will help a veteran offensive line. Holtz says Dayon Arrington, a big, physical wide receiver, has the best chance of playing immediately among the freshmen. Defensive linemen Robert Jones and athlete Adrian Jones (no relation) could be sleepers.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	10	Jamar Bryant (Jr.)	8	Reyn Willis (Jr.)
WR	17	Dwayne Harris (So.)	80	Alex Taylor (Jr.)
LT	78	Stanley Bryant (Sr.)	74	Terence Campbell (Jr.)
LG	73	T.J. Harper (Jr.)	60	Andrew Farr (So.)
C	57	Fred Hicks (Sr.)	72	Stephen Heis (Jr.)
RG	70	Doug Palmer (Jr.)	75	Cory Dowless (So.)
RT	66	D.J. Scott (So.)	64	Travis Melvin (So.)
TE	3	Davon Drew (Sr.)	87	J.R. Kraemer (Sr.)
QB	15	Patrick Pinkney (Sr.)	14	Rob Kass (Jr.)
FB	45	Kevin Gidrey (So.)	43	Jason Simmons (Sr.)
RB	2	Jonathan Williams (So.)	24	Dominique Lindsay (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	41	Zack Slate (Sr.)	92	Marcus Hands (Sr.)
DT	90	Jay Ross (Jr.)	99	Antonio Allison (Fr.)
DT	97	Linval Joseph (So.)	98	Khalif Mitchell (Sr.)
DE	95	C.J. Wilson (Jr.)	94	Willie Smith (So.)
OLB	50	Quentin Cotton (Sr.)	40	Cliff Perryman (Fr.)
ILB	49	Jeremy Chambliss (Jr.)	44	Nick Johnson (Jr.)
OLB	34	Pierre Bell (Sr.)	31	Lorenzo Osborne (Jr.)
CB	1	Leon Best (Sr.)	38	Emanuel Davis (Fr.)
CB	35	Jerek Hewett (Sr.)	13	Travis Simmons (So.)
SS	4	Van Eskridge (Jr.)	23	Dekota Marshall (So.)
FS	20	J.J. Milbrook (Sr.)	19	Chris Mattocks (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	30	Ben Hartman (Jr.)	KR	2	Jonathan Williams (So.)
P	14	Matt Dodge (Jr.)	PR	17	Dwayne Harris (So.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 8-5 (6-2 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	at Virginia Tech	L	17- 7
S. 8	North Carolina	W	34-31
S. 15	Southern Miss	L	28-21
S. 22	at West Virginia	L	48- 7
S. 29	at Houston	W	37-35
O. 6	UCF	W	52-38
O. 13	at UTEP	W	(ot) 45-42
O. 20	NC State	L	34-20
O. 27	UAB	W	41- 6
N. 3	at Memphis	W	56-40
N. 10	at Marshall	L	26- 7
N. 24	Tulane	W	35-12
D. 23	#Boise State	W	41-38
	#Hawaii Bowl		

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Patrick Pinkney	200	121	1,358	11	4
Rob Kass	175	96	1,164	9	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Chris Johnson	236	1,423	6.0	17	
Patrick Pinkney	79	306	3.9	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jamar Bryant	48	704	14.7	6	
Chris Johnson	37	528	14.3	6	
Phillip Henry	27	279	10.3	0	
Dwayne Harris	26	246	9.5	2	

Kicking: Ben Hartman, 13-22 FGs, 50-50 XPs, 89 points
Tackles: Van Eskridge, 104; Pierre Bell, 97
Sacks: C.J. Wilson, 7
Interceptions: J.J. Milbrook, 3

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: MARK SNYDER **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 12-23 (3 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 12-23 (3 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JOHN SHANNON **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** RICK MINTER
 HUNTINGTON, W.VA. JOAN C. EDWARDS STADIUM (38,019)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

107

THUNDERING HERD



C-USA EAST
PREDICTION

5

MARSHALL
Thundering Herd

Marshall coach Mark Snyder enters his fourth campaign optimistic things will be different than his first three, which all ended with more losses than wins. With a full complement of 85 scholarships for the first time since he was hired in 2005, Snyder is confident the results will improve. "I've been playing five-card stud with three cards," Snyder says. "We knew there would be three years of laying foundation. We'll be better this year, and the next year we'll pretty much have everyone back. The future is bright."

QUARTERBACKS The competition to replace Bernard Morris will continue into fall. Redshirt freshman Mark Cann has a slight lead, but nothing has been settled. Cann, a lefthander, showed poise and patience during spring practice and more strength in his arm than he had as a true freshman. Another candidate is Georgia Tech transfer Jonathan Garner, who is more athletic than Cann and has the advantage of already learning a college system. Still, Brian Anderson is the only player in the race with a career start on his résumé.

RUNNING BACKS The man with the school name on his back is front and center. Darius Marshall enjoyed a stellar freshman campaign that saw him earn C-USA All-Freshman honors. He started nine games and gained 631 yards on 123 carries for an average of 5.1 yards per carry. Chubb Small and Kelvin Turner, who combined for 12 touchdowns last year, also return, and four true freshmen will be given a chance to complement Marshall.

RECEIVERS Tight end Cody Slate is one of the top pass-catchers at his position in the nation. The speedster has good hands and should be the top tight end in the league this season after catching 66 passes for 818 yards. Former Tennessee signee Lee Smith enjoyed a tremendous spring and will also be counted on to produce. An experienced wide receivers unit will receive a boost from junior college speedster O.J. Murdock. The former South Carolina signee will give the Herd another deep threat, especially when teamed with Darius Passmore, who is primed for his most productive season after a summer of clearing up minor injuries. Two other starters in Marshall's three-wide attack return — Emmanuel Spann and E.J. Wynn.

7 Marshall forced seven turnovers in 2007 — worst in the nation — which was 35 fewer than co-leaders Cincinnati and South Florida.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Marshall ranked No. 108 in the nation in sacks allowed at 3.2 per game, "and that was with a mobile quarterback," Snyder says. Two starters are gone. Senior Brian Leggett is moving from guard to center, and to his left will be a pair of sophomores who started as redshirt freshmen — Brandon Campbell and Josh Evans. Daniel Baldrige and C.J. Wood will fight it out at right tackle, which will likely protect the quarterback's blindside (since Cann and Garner are both left-handed).

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN Defensive coordinator Rick Minter is installing a 3-4 defense this season and moving former end Albert McClellan to an outside linebacker slot. Senior Ian Hoskins, who started at defensive end last season, returns, and he will be joined by sophomores Johnny Jones and Michael Janac, who was impressive in spring practice. John Jacobs, who started eight games a year ago, gives the unit depth, and Montel Glasco and Shane Moore will also see time.

LINEBACKERS After missing last year with a knee injury, McClellan will undoubtedly boost Marshall's defense. The junior was the C-USA Defensive Player of the Year in 2006 but was injured last August and missed the year. He is moving to outside linebacker in Minter's 3-4 scheme and will be counted on to pressure the quarterback. Andre Portis and Corey Hart were both active in the spring, and Maurice Kitchens was second on the team in tackles a year ago. Also keep an eye on junior Antawn Booker.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The anchor of the unit is free safety C.J. Spillman, a second-team All-C-USA honoree a year ago who led the team in tackles. Spillman will be joined by Aaron Johnson at strong safety, who spent last year backing up Spillman. At corner, Snyder wants to see improvement. Starters J.J. Johnson and Zearrick Matthews return, but the competition is open and DeQuan Bemby was turning heads in the spring. Last year's starter at free safety, Ashton Hall, will be the nickel back.

SPECIALISTS Spann will be the primary kick and punt returner, with Marshall also getting his opportunities. At placekicker, soccer goalkeeper Craig Ratanamorn and Elliott Boyd are battling to replace Anthony Binswanger, who kicked and punted last year. Cody Ochoa and Calvin Purchase are the punter candidates.

THE HERD TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE HERD

Mark Snyder has been forced to rebuild a proud program at his alma mater, and progress has been slow in his three years. To spur things along, Snyder made changes at both offensive and defensive coordinator, where he welcomed in John Shannon from Toledo on the offensive side and former Cincinnati coach Rick Minter to run the defense. Shannon will have to find a quarterback to fit his system and improve an offensive line that had trouble with pass protection last year. Marshall has talent at the skill positions, plus an All-America candidate at tight end. The question is whether the passer can get them the ball and the offensive line can open holes for Darius Marshall. Defensively, Marshall has plenty of room for improvement. An injury-depleted unit gave up 30 points nine times and 40 points four times. The return of Albert McClellan will be big, and it appears Marshall has the linebacker depth to make a seamless switch to Minter's 3-4 scheme. The secondary must come up with more big plays — the Herd were last in the nation in turnovers forced. The schedule is virtually the same as a year ago — Wisconsin and Illinois State replace Miami and New Hampshire. Marshall will see significant improvement if a productive quarterback emerges and the defense forces more turnovers.



CODY SLATE

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Illinois State	W
S. 6	at Wisconsin	L
S. 13	Memphis	L
S. 20	at Southern Miss	L
S. 27	at West Virginia	L
O. 3	Cincinnati	L
O. 18	at UAB	*
O. 28	Houston	L
N. 8	at East Carolina	L
N. 15	UCF	L
N. 22	at Rice	L
N. 29	Tulsa	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Mark Langolf



2008 MARSHALL ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

12 Anderson, Brian	6-3/209	So.
9 Beardain, Wesley	6-1/207	Jr.
10 Cann, Mark	6-4/237	Fr.
18 Garner, Jonathan	6-4/218	Jr.
7 Smith, Chris	6-3/220	Fr.

RUNNING BACKS

48 Carpenter, George	5-10/209	Fr.
2 Edwards, Terrell	6-2/211	Fr.
42 Ludwick, Payden	5-11/215	So.
5 Marshall, Darius	5-10/193	So.
49 Shick, Tyler	5-8/185	So.
28 Small, Chubb	5-9/193	Sr.
43 Tominack, Cody	5-11/220	Sr.
34 Turner, Kelvin	5-10/200	Sr.

RECEIVERS

80 Edmonson, Courtney	6-0/184	Jr.
23 Milligan, Bryant	6-1/185	Sr.
38 Oskin, Seth	6-1/190	So.
1 Passmore, Darius	6-3/186	Sr.
37 Roberts, Chuck	5-11/169	Jr.
24 Spann, Emmanuel	5-11/195	Sr.
87 Thompson, Tavaris	6-2/180	Jr.
3 Wynn, E.J.	5-11/165	Sr.

TIGHT ENDS

19 Graham, Maurice	6-5/300	Jr.
47 Henry, Robert	5-11/224	So.
83 Parkhurst, Matt	6-3/226	Sr.
81 Skiles, Andrew	6-3/260	Fr.
85 Slate, Cody	6-4/220	Jr.
16 Smith, Lee	6-6/245	So.

HT/WT CL

6-3/209	So.
6-1/207	Jr.
6-4/237	Fr.
6-4/218	Jr.
6-3/220	Fr.

HT/WT CL

5-10/209	Fr.
6-2/211	Fr.
5-11/215	So.
5-10/193	So.
5-8/185	So.
5-9/193	Sr.
5-11/220	Sr.
5-10/200	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-0/184	Jr.
6-1/185	Sr.
6-1/190	So.
6-3/186	Sr.
5-11/169	Jr.
5-11/195	Sr.
6-2/180	Jr.
5-11/165	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-5/300	Jr.
5-11/224	So.
6-3/226	Sr.
6-3/260	Fr.
6-4/220	Jr.
6-6/245	So.

HOMETOWN

Louisville, KY
Winona, MS
Landrum, SC
Daytona Beach, FL
South Point, OH

HOMETOWN

Lancaster, OH
Mobile, AL
Petersburg, WV
Milledgeville, GA
Youngstown, OH
Auburndale, FL
West Alexander, PA
Danville, KY

HOMETOWN

Titusville, FL
Cleveland, OH
Myrtle Beach, SC
Florida City, FL
Guyton, GA
Atlanta, GA
Lauderdale Lakes, FL
Washington, DC

HOMETOWN

Fresno, CA
Bluefield, WV
Philadelphia, PA
Kenova, WV
Chipley, FL
Powell, TN

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

62 Altobello, Matt	6-1/301	Sr.
79 Baldrige, Daniel	6-9/307	Jr.
52 Bare, Adam	6-2/305	So.
64 Bruhin, John	6-5/304	Fr.
78 Campbell, Brandon	6-5/319	So.
68 Carter, Micah	6-4/312	Fr.
66 Curry, Branden	6-6/315	Fr.
61 Evans, Josh	6-4/324	So.
70 Glenn, Sergio	6-6/330	Fr.
65 Leggett, Brian	6-1/287	Sr.
76 Rogers, Jimmy	6-4/325	Jr.
71 Schofield, Chad	6-4/320	So.
73 Tillman, Ryan	6-5/280	Fr.
67 Vint, Erik	6-4/285	So.
75 Wood, C.J.	6-5/300	Fr.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

50 Bragg, Joe	6-4/284	Sr.
58 Burkes, James	6-1/311	Jr.
95 Glasco, Montel	6-3/290	Sr.
21 Hoskins, Ian	6-2/256	Sr.
46 Jacobs, John	6-3/253	Jr.
90 Janac, Michael	6-4/271	So.
91 Jones, Johnny	6-5/289	So.
97 Moore, Shane	6-2/286	So.
77 Thompson, DeMetrius	6-2/225	So.
75 Traylor, Brett	6-3/280	So.
74 Wallace, Joshua	6-2/260	So.

LINEBACKERS

27 Booker, Antawn	6-1/255	Jr.
51 Evans, B.J.	6-0/224	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-1/301	Sr.
6-9/307	Jr.
6-2/305	So.
6-5/304	Fr.
6-5/319	So.
6-4/312	Fr.
6-6/315	Fr.
6-4/324	So.
6-6/330	Fr.
6-1/287	Sr.
6-4/325	Jr.
6-4/320	So.
6-5/280	Fr.
6-4/285	So.
6-5/300	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-4/284	Sr.
6-1/311	Jr.
6-3/290	Sr.
6-2/256	Sr.
6-3/253	Jr.
6-4/271	So.
6-5/289	So.
6-2/286	So.
6-2/225	So.
6-3/280	So.
6-2/260	So.

HT/WT CL

6-1/255	Jr.
6-0/224	Fr.

HOMETOWN

Keyser, WV
Opelousas, LA
Ironton, OH
Powell, TN
Fort Washington, MD
Beckley, WV
Hollywood, FL
Fayetteville, WV
Winston-Salem, NC
Meridian, MS
Cleveland, MS
Strongsville, OH
Centerville, VA
Ridgeway, VA
Gainesville, GA
Morgantown, WV
Charleston, WV
Westfield, NJ
Campbellsville, KY
Broadway, VA
Miami, FL
Clewiston, FL
Whitsett, NC
Charleston, WV
Wheeling, WV
Richmond, VA
Auburndale, FL
Dunlow, WV

29 Gamble, Phillip	5-11/225	Sr.
53 Gray, Scott	6-0/200	So.
35 Harris, Kellen	6-3/224	Fr.
44 Hart, Corey	6-2/223	So.
30 Harvey, Mario	6-0/252	Jr.
56 King, Howard	6-2/213	So.
45 Kitchens, Maurice	6-3/247	Sr.
96 McClellan, Albert	6-2/259	Jr.
33 Portis, Andre	6-3/240	Jr.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

17 Bemby, DeQuan	5-10/174	Fr.
31 Brown, Omar	5-10/181	Fr.
49 Culicerto, Pete	6-1/197	So.
13 Drakeford, T.J.	5-11/187	Fr.
20 Hall, Ashton	5-10/197	Jr.
26 Johnson, Aaron	5-11/184	Sr.
8 Johnson, J.J.	5-11/188	Sr.
42 Lips, Stuart	6-3/206	So.
11 Matthews, Zearrick	5-9/186	Jr.
14 Miller, Josh	5-10/183	Jr.
22 Perry, Kevin	5-10/180	So.
40 Robinson, DeNathan	5-10/168	So.
19 Saunders, John	6-0/192	Jr.
4 Spillman, C.J.	6-0/193	Sr.
15 Wingate, D.J.	6-2/185	So.

SPECIALISTS

82 Boyd, Elliot (K)	6-0/190	So.
38 James, Jeremy (LS)	6-0/192	Fr.
39 McClellan, Sean (LS)	5-11/237	Jr.
51 Ochoa, Cody (K)	6-1/183	So.
60 Purchase, Calvin (K)	6-2/179	Fr.
92 Ratanamorn, Craig (K)	6-3/184	Jr.

5-11/225	Sr.
6-0/200	So.
6-3/224	Fr.
6-2/223	So.
6-0/252	Jr.
6-2/213	So.
6-3/247	Sr.
6-2/259	Jr.
6-3/240	Jr.

HT/WT CL

5-10/174	Fr.
5-10/181	Fr.
6-1/197	So.
5-11/187	Fr.
5-10/197	Jr.
5-11/184	Sr.
5-11/188	Sr.
6-3/206	So.
5-9/186	Jr.
5-10/183	Jr.
5-10/180	So.
5-10/168	So.
6-0/192	Jr.
6-0/193	Sr.
6-2/185	So.

HT/WT CL

6-0/190	So.
6-0/192	Fr.
5-11/237	Jr.
6-1/183	So.
6-2/179	Fr.
6-3/184	Jr.

Bainbridge, GA
Union, KY
Sharon, PA
Loachapoka, AL
Forsyth, GA
Daytona Beach, FL
Roanoke, VA
Lakeland, FL
Cleveland, OH

HOMETOWN

Hawkinsville, GA
Moncks Corner, SC
Charlotte, NC
Charlotte, NC
Kingsland, GA
San Francisco, CA
Springdale, MD
Herrons Creek, Australia
Greenwood, SC
Fresno, CA
Madison, AL
Hampton, VA
Huntington, WV
Louisville, KY
Daytona Beach, FL

HOMETOWN

Germanatown, OH
St. Albans, WV
Morristown, TN
Bridgewater, VA
Beaufort, SC
Wichita, KS

2008 SIGNEES

Devin Arrington	LB	6-2	205
Brandon Burns	S	6-4	215
Tyson Gale	LB	6-3	230
Maurice Graham	TE	6-5	270
Jamie Hatten	TE	6-5	233
Leshawn Henderson	CB	6-1	180
Cory McCutchen	WR	6-4	178
Josh Miller	CB	5-9	185
O.J. Murdock	WR	6-0	185
Andre Portis	OLB	6-3	240
Jimmy Rogers	T	6-4	235
Ahmed Shakoor	CB	5-11	189
Jordan Taylor	RB	6-1	205
Zach Tenuta	TE	6-3	230
Demetrius Thomas	RB	6-1	200
Charles Walker	WR	5-10	185
Martin Ward	RB	5-9	188
Kase Whitehead	P	5-10	180
Jamal Wilson	WR	5-11	176
John Youboty	DE	6-4	246

Marshall signed seven junior college players, and several could have an impact right away. Wide receiver O.J. Murdock is a former 100 meter state champ in Florida and originally signed with South Carolina before spending two years at a junior college. Another junior college receiver who will be given a shot to play right away is Chuck Walker. Andre Portis is ready to start at linebacker. Safety Brandon Burns is slated to fill C.J. Spillman's shoes when he departs and may play his way onto the field this season. The top high school players in Snyder's fourth recruiting class are all at running back, where he grabbed the top rusher in Indiana (Jordan Taylor) and standouts from Georgia (Martin Ward) and Alabama (Demetrius Thomas).

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR 24 Emmanuel Spann (Sr.)	O.J. Murdock (Jr.)
WR 1 Darius Passmore (Sr.)	87 Tavaris Thompson (Jr.)
WR 3 E.J. Wynn (Sr.)	80 Courtney Edmonson (Jr.)
LT 78 Brandon Campbell (So.)	66 Branden Curry (Fr.)
LG 61 Josh Evans (So.)	73 Ryan Tillman (Fr.)
C 65 Brian Leggett (Sr.)	64 John Bruhin (Fr.)
RG 62 Matt Altobello (Sr.)	71 Chad Schofield (So.)
RT 79 Daniel Baldrige (Jr.)	75 C.J. Wood (Fr.)
TE 85 Cody Slate (Jr.)	16 Lee Smith (So.)
QB 10 Mark Cann (Fr.)	18 Jonathan Garner (Jr.)
RB 5 Darius Marshall (So.)	28 Chubb Small (Sr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE 21 Ian Hoskins (Sr.)	95 Montel Glasco (Sr.)
DT 91 Johnny Jones (So.)	58 James Burkes (Jr.)
DE 90 Michael Janac (So.)	46 John Jacobs (Jr.)
OLB 96 Albert McClellan (Jr.)	27 Antawn Booker (Jr.)
ILB 44 Corey Hart (So.)	56 Howard King (So.)
ILB 45 Maurice Kitchens (Sr.)	35 Kellen Harris (Fr.)
OLB 33 Andre Portis (Jr.)	30 Mario Harvey (Jr.)
CB 8 J.J. Johnson (Sr.)	15 D.J. Wingate (So.)
CB 17 DeQuan Bemby (Fr.)	11 Zearrick Matthews (Jr.)
SS 26 Aaron Johnson (Sr.)	20 Ashton Hall (Jr.)
FS 4 C.J. Spillman (Sr.)	Brandon Burns (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 92 Craig Ratanamorn (Jr.)	KR 24 Emmanuel Spann (Sr.)
P 51 Cody Ochoa (So.)	PR 24 Emmanuel Spann (Sr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9 (3-5 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	at Miami	L	31- 3
S. 8	West Virginia	L	48-23
S. 15	New Hampshire	L	48-35
S. 22	at Cincinnati	L	40-14
O. 2	at Memphis	L	24-21
O. 13	at Tulsa	L	38-31
O. 21	Southern Miss	L	33-24
O. 27	Rice	W	34-21
N. 3	at UCF	L	47-13
N. 10	East Carolina	W	26- 7
N. 17	at Houston	L	35-28
N. 24	UAB	W	46-39

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bernard Morris	398	253	3,149	17	10
Brian Anderson	28	12	94	0	3
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Darius Marshall	123	631	5.1	3	
Bernard Morris	130	488	3.8	4	
Chubb Small	69	424	6.1	5	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Cody Slate	66	818	12.4	5	
Darius Passmore	45	660	14.7	5	
E.J. Wynn	31	309	10.0	1	

Kicking: Anthony Binswanger, 13-18 FGs, 33-35 XPs, 72 pts.
Tackles: C.J. Spillman, 131; Maurice Kitchens, 90
Sacks: Maurice Kitchens, 4
Interceptions: Ryland Wilson, 2

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: TOMMY WEST RECORD AT SCHOOL: 41-44 (7 YEARS) CAREER RECORD: 76-79 (13 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: CLAY HELTON DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TIM WALTON

MEMPHIS, TENN. LIBERTY BOWL (62,380)

Tommy West has established the U of M as a perennial bowl participant. Now, he is intent on taking the program somewhere else it hasn't been: a Conference USA championship game. The road will be difficult in a competitive East Division inhabited by UCF (the defending C-USA champ), East Carolina (a 2008 favorite) and Southern Miss, but West is confident the Tigers can make it a four-team race.

QUARTERBACKS Junior college transfer Arkelon Hall comes to Memphis after spending last season at the College of the Sequoias in California. Hall was regarded as one of the nation's top 10 quarterback prospects when he signed with Washington State in 2005. In the Northwest, his career stalled. He was a redshirt in 2005 and broke his leg in a preseason scrimmage in 2006 before transferring to junior college. At Memphis, he'll give the Tigers something the spread offense covets: a quarterback who can run. Matt Malouf, a sophomore, played a key reserve role as a freshman, entering games in third- and fourth-down situations mostly to run.

RUNNING BACKS Projected starter T.J. Pitts missed the spring while recovering from a broken ankle suffered in the bowl game, giving the inexperienced Curtis Steele and Mike Davis valuable repetitions. Pitts underwent two surgeries to repair his ankle. If healthy, he should move into the starting role for the first time. A heralded back coming out of Georgia two years ago, Pitts is physical enough to gain the tough yardage. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry for the year and rushed for 110 yards in the regular-season finale against SMU. Steele spent last season as a redshirt after coming from Northwest Mississippi Community College.

RECEIVERS The top four receivers are back from a unit that ranks as one of the best, and tallest, in the conference. Junior Carlos Singleton, at 6'8", is a matchup nightmare for most defensive backs in the league, evidenced by his team-high 11 touchdown receptions a year ago. Duke Calhoun, who was the team's leading receiver with 890 yards, is 6'4" and poised to set numerous records at a school that has produced several NFL receivers, including Isaac Bruce and Russell Copeland.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN West calls this group one of the best he's had in eight years as Memphis' head coach. It's a unit led by two-time all-conference tackle Brandon Pearce and junior transfer Malcom Rawls, who originally signed with Tennessee. Philip Beliles adds consistency, too, having started each of the team's 13 games a year ago at center. The Memphis running game got a boost late in the season when Terrence Echols moved into a starting role at left guard after serving as a backup at center.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN If the defense is to make an impact, the line will be an integral part of the turnaround. Clinton McDonald, an all-conference candidate, leads the group and was selected by his teammates as a captain in 2007, the only junior so honored in West's tenure. McDonald led the team in TFLs and sacks and also forced two fumbles. End Greg Terrell, who also forced two fumbles and blocked a kick, is another all-league candidate. Senior end Corey Mills (Ole Miss) and senior nosetackle Freddie Barnett (Arkansas) are ex-SEC signees who have proven to be playmakers.

LINEBACKERS A position that fought through injuries a year ago will be much better as long as Winston Bowens and Greg Jackson remain healthy. Bowens, who was lost at midseason due to a knee injury, is a classic middle linebacker who was emerging as a defensive leader when he was hurt. Jackson possesses the speed required of an outside linebacker in a 4-3 scheme. At the other outside spot, Josh Weaver, a quick, athletic converted defensive end, could be the key to this unit's effectiveness.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Tiger defensive backs are expected to be much more physical, and the cornerbacks should play more man coverage this fall. West wants an aggressive unit that may get burned on occasion, but one that also will make plays, something that was missing in 2007. Senior cornerback Michael Grandberry, who didn't play much a year ago, flourished under the new philosophy and new coaches in the spring.

SPECIALISTS The kicking game will be in experienced feet. Junior kicker Matt Reagan struggled at times last season, but he recovered to lead the team in scoring (80 points) and earned two conference Player of the Week honors. He beat SMU in overtime with a 32-yard kick. Consistent senior punter Brent Sutherland averaged 40.7 yards.

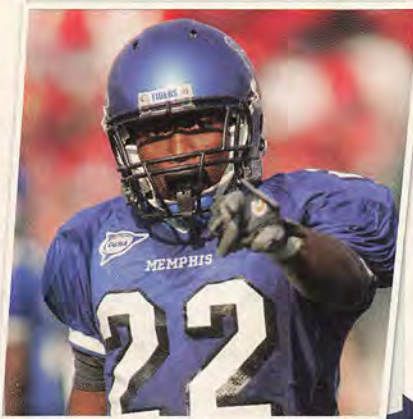
Memphis hasn't returned a kickoff for a touchdown since 1996, when Kevin Cobb's 95-yard TD return helped the Tigers shock a Tennessee team led by Peyton Manning.

1996

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE TIGERS

Memphis would like to emulate the success of its basketball program and achieve the football equivalent: a bid to a BCS game. That might be a reach, but an attainable goal for this program is a Conference USA title and a berth in the hometown Liberty Bowl. However, making a leap from a 7-6 season to a league title will be too difficult a challenge for the 2008 Tigers, who must replace too many players at key positions. The U of M will be breaking in new starters at quarterback and running back. Neither junior college transfer Arkelon Hall nor sophomore Matt Malouf has started a game at quarterback. Running back T.J. Pitts moves into the starting role but missed the spring recovering from two surgeries to repair a broken ankle. The big 'if' for the Tigers is whether Hall or Malouf can consistently find what is perhaps the league's best collection of receivers. Defensively, new coordinator Tim Walton should make this a much better unit. While another bowl trip — which would be the program's fifth in six years — is possible, there's too much talent in the C-USA's East Division for the Tigers to earn a Liberty Bowl bid. East Carolina is a division favorite, and Memphis must play the Pirates in Greenville, N.C. The Tigers seem more likely to make their run in 2009.



DUKE CALHOUN

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	at Ole Miss	L
S. 6	Rice	W
S. 13	at Marshall	W
S. 20	Nicholls State	W
S. 27	Arkansas State	W
O. 2	at UAB	W
O. 10	Louisville	L
O. 18	at East Carolina	L
O. 25	Southern Miss	L
N. 8	at SMU	*
N. 22	UCF	*
N. 29	Tulane	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss



2008 MEMPHIS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

8	Hall, Arkelon
7	Hudgens, Will
19	Ingram, Byron
10	Malouf, Matt
15	Toney, Brett
18	Walker, Dallas

HT/WT

6-3/220
6-4/235
6-5/195
6-3/212
6-1/190
6-6/228

CL

Jr.
Sr.
So.
So.
Jr.
Fr.

HOMETOWN

Fresno, CA
Memphis, TN
Stone Mountain, GA
Greenwood, MS
Germantown, TN
Ridgeland, MS

RUNNING BACKS

20	Davis, Mike
35	Jones, Stacy
28	Longstreet, Jeremy
3	Pitts, T.J.
44	Simpson, Jonathan
26	Steele, Curtis

HT/WT

5-11/230
6-2/245
6-1/200
5-10/203
6-3/210
6-0/185

CL

Fr.
Jr.
So.
Jr.
Fr.
Jr.

HOMETOWN

Newnan, GA
Columbus, MS
Olive Branch, MS
Gainesville, GA
Trenton, TN
Franklin, TN

RECEIVERS

1	Baker, Cam
2	Black, Steven
22	Calhoun, Duke
88	Cox, Todd
84	Echols, Curtis
23	Godwin, Lucian
29	Hall, Brian
83	Jackson, LaBradford
86	Joachim, Steven
80	Jones, Maurice
9	McCoy, Antonio
87	Robinzine, Carlton
82	Rodgers, Henry
89	Singleton, Carlos
17	West, Turner
14	Williams, Earnest

HT/WT

6-0/170
6-3/213
6-4/195
6-2/210
6-3/190
6-0/185
5-11/190
6-5/193
6-4/205
6-4/225
6-0/185
6-3/218
6-2/188
6-8/215
6-3/185
6-0/192

CL

Fr.
Sr.
Jr.
So.
So.
Jr.
Jr.
Fr.
Jr.
Sr.
Sr.
Fr.
Jr.
So.
Sr.

HOMETOWN

Osceola, AR
Birmingham, AL
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Cordova, TN
Collierville, TN
Bartlett, TN
Miami, FL
Memphis, TN
Starkville, MS
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Brownsville, TN
Germantown, TN
Bells, TN

TIGHT ENDS

13	Farr, DajLeon
81	Onarheim, Deven
85	Russell, Brett

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

74	Anderson, Ken
61	Antonescu, Michael
57	Beliles, Philip
78	Clem, John
70	Denning, Michael
54	Echols, Terrence
79	Edwards, Paul
68	Hardie, Robbie
75	Leary, Ronald
71	Pearce, Brandon
77	Rawls, Malcom
64	Riley, Dominik
66	Stubblefield, Cody
55	Todd, Brent

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

99	Barnett, Freddie
96	Brown, Jada
76	Bryant, Charlie
60	Douglas, Brandon
73	Henderson, Lionel
95	Jenkins, Colton
91	Johnson, William
67	McCleod, Joel
53	McDonald, Clinton
41	Mills, Corey
94	Terrell, Greg
97	Turner, Steven
98	Walker, Tommy

HT/WT

6-5/252
6-7/255
6-3/245

CL

Sr.
So.
Sr.

HOMETOWN

Houston, TX
Maylene, AL
Memphis, TN

HT/WT

6-3/280
6-4/290
6-5/290
6-6/260
6-5/305
6-3/307
6-6/275
6-4/290
6-4/345
6-6/300
6-5/315
6-4/305
6-4/305
6-3/320

CL

So.
Fr.
Sr.
Fr.
Sr.
Sr.
Jr.
Fr.
Fr.
Sr.
Jr.
So.
Sr.
Sr.

HOMETOWN

Memphis, TN
Ridgeland, MS
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Southaven, MS
Byhalia, MS
McKenzie, TN
Hampton, GA
Baton Rouge, LA
Memphis, TN
Memphis, TN
Montgomery, AL
New Albany, MS
Pelham, AL

HT/WT

6-2/300
6-2/265
6-6/310
6-3/291
6-4/275
6-6/290
6-4/226
6-3/310
6-3/265
6-4/260
6-4/255
6-3/270
6-3/270

CL

Sr.
Jr.
So.
Sr.
Fr.
So.
So.
Fr.
Sr.
Jr.
Jr.
Sr.
Sr.

HOMETOWN

Texarkana, AR
College Park, GA
Collierville, TN
Brownsville, TN
Mobile, AL
Winona, MS
Moultrie, GA
Miramar, FL
Jacksonville, AR
Memphis, TN
Birmingham, AL
Brownsville, TN
Munford, TN

LINEBACKERS

50	Bowens, Winston
56	Fruitt, Will
48	Govan, Corderick
32	Griffin, Tyler
52	Hill, John
59	Jackson, Greg
58	Lawson, Lester
27	McArthur, John
42	Odom, Derrick
45	Phelps, Tommy
25	Rockette, Jeremy
40	Terry, Roger
23	Thomas, Terrence
90	Weaver, Josh

HT/WT

6-0/250
5-11/215
6-2/220
5-11/205
5-9/200
6-2/205
6-2/244
5-11/180
6-2/202
6-3/245
6-3/220
6-1/218
5-11/230
6-3/210

CL

So.
Fr.
So.
Sr.
So.
Jr.
Fr.
So.
Jr.
Sr.
Jr.
So.
Fr.
Jr.

HOMETOWN

College Park, GA
Memphis, TN
Cascilla, MS
Nashville, TN
Olive Branch, MS
Marietta, GA
Germantown, TN
Memphis, TN
Jackson, MS
Roeland Park, KS
Water Valley, MS
Memphis, TN
Eufala, AL
Marietta, GA

DEFENSIVE BACKS

8	Bell, Tony
4	Davis, Darius
27	Grandberry, Michael
39	Jones, Malcolm
16	Lamar, Deante'
21	Mathis, LeRico
2	Patterson, Brandon
9	Richardson, Jermaine
7	Starr, Alton
31	Wooten, Moncel
46	Wright, Bryan

HT/WT

6-2/215
6-0/180
5-10/171
6-2/210
5-9/180
6-1/185
6-1/195
6-1/190
6-0/195
6-3/195
6-1/180

CL

Sr.
So.
Sr.
So.
Jr.
Sr.
Sr.
Fr.
Jr.
So.
So.

HOMETOWN

Alabaster, AL
Memphis, TN
Covington, TN
Gantt, AL
Atlanta, GA
Biloxi, MS
Germantown, TN
Columbus, GA
Decatur, GA
Memphis, TN
Miami, FL

SPECIALISTS

92	Berra, Nick (K)
52	Bratcher, Keenan (LS)
43	Reagan, Matt (K)
49	Sutherland, Brent (P)

HT/WT

6-3/205
6-2/235
6-1/210
6-4/210

CL

So.
So.
Jr.
Sr.

HOMETOWN

Cordova, TN
Milan, TN
Knoxville, TN
Brandon, MS

2008 SIGNEES

Demetrius Culpepper	DE	6-5	245
DajLeon Farr	TE	6-5	252
Arkelon Hall	QB	6-3	220
Marcus Hightower	WR	6-2	180
Ricky Holloway	LB	6-2	225
Kindly Jacques	OL	6-7	325
Colton Jenkins	DL	6-6	290
Steven Joachim	WR	6-4	205
Curtis Johnson	WR	6-0	182
Larry Landry	OL	6-3	285
Donald Law	TE	6-5	260
Clay Lee	DB	6-1	215
Derrick Odom	LB	6-2	202
Dontari Poe	DT	6-3	315
Greg Ray	RB	5-10	205
Brandon Ross	RB	6-0	205
Marcus Rucker	WR	6-3	180
Mike Shepard	DB	6-2	205
Frank Trotter	DT	6-2	260

In an attempt to answer immediate needs at quarterback and running back, coach Tommy West dipped into the junior college ranks. He deemed the strategy a success after signing quarterback Arkelon Hall and running back Greg Ray. Hall enrolled in January and participated in spring drills, where he battled sophomore Matt Malouf for the starting job. Rated the No. 8 quarterback prospect in the nation coming out of Edison High in Fresno, Calif., Hall signed with Washington State but transferred to the College of the Sequoias in 2007. West believes he got a steal in Ray, a native of Los Angeles.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (7)

WR	22 Duke Calhoun (Jr.)	89 Carlos Singleton (Jr.)
WR	2 Steven Black (Sr.)	80 Maurice Jones (Sr.)
WR	14 Earnest Williams (Sr.)	87 Carlton Robinzine (Sr.)
LT	55 Brent Todd (Sr.)	79 Paul Edwards (Jr.)
LG	54 Terrence Echols (Sr.)	70 Michael Denning (Sr.)
C	57 Philip Beliles (Sr.)	61 Michael Antonescu (Fr.)
RG	77 Malcom Rawls (Jr.)	64 Dominik Riley (So.)
RT	71 Brandon Pearce (Sr.)	75 Ronald Leary (Fr.)
TE	85 Brett Russell (Sr.)	81 Deven Onarheim (So.)
QB	8 Arkelon Hall (Jr.)	10 Matt Malouf (So.)
TB	3 T.J. Pitts (Jr.)	26 Curtis Steele (Jr.)

DEFENSE (10)

DE	41 Corey Mills (Sr.)	98 Tommy Walker (So.)
DT	53 Clinton McDonald (Sr.)	97 Steven Turner (Jr.)
NT	99 Freddie Barnett (Sr.)	60 Brandon Douglas (Sr.)
DE	94 Greg Terrell (Jr.)	96 Jada Brown (Jr.)
OLB	59 Greg Jackson (Jr.)	48 Corderick Govan (So.)
MLB	50 Winston Bowens (So.)	45 Tommy Phelps (Sr.)
OLB	90 Josh Weaver (Jr.)	25 Jeremy Rockette (Jr.)
CB	27 Michael Grandberry (Sr.)	7 Alton Starr (Jr.)
CB	21 LeRico Mathis (Sr.)	4 Darius Davis (So.)
SS	8 Tony Bell (Sr.)	39 Malcolm Jones (So.)
FS	2 Brandon Patterson (Sr.)	9 Jermaine Richardson (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	43 Matt Reagan (Jr.)
KR	27 Michael Grandberry (Sr.)
P	49 Brent Sutherland (Sr.)
PR	14 Earnest Williams (Sr.)

RECORD: 7-6 (6-2 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	Ole Miss	L	23-21
S. 15	Jacksonville State	W	35-14
S. 22	at UCF	L	56-20
S. 27	at Arkansas State	L	35-31
O. 2	Marshall	W	24-21
O. 13	Middle Tennessee	L	21-7
O. 20	at Rice	W	38-35
O. 27	at Tulane	W	28-27
N. 3	East Carolina	L	56-40
N. 10	at Southern Miss	W	29-26
N. 17	UAB	W	25-9
N. 24	SMU	W	(ot) 55-52
D. 21	#Florida Atlantic	L	44-27

#New Orleans Bowl

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Martin Hankins	428	261	3,220	25	12
Will Hudgens	104	52	587	5	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Joseph Doss	174	806	4.6	5	
T.J. Pitts	106	481	4.5	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Duke Calhoun	62	890	14.4	5	
Carlos Singleton	51	767	15.0	11	
Steven Black	42	477	11.4	1	
Maurice Jones	37	639	17.3	2	

Kicking: Matt Reagan, 15-22 FGs, 35-38 XPs, 80 points
Tackles: Jake Kasser, 100; Brandon Patterson*, 77
Sacks: Clinton McDonald, 4
Interceptions: Two players tied with 3

Returning Players in Bold

NATIONAL
FORECAST

63

GOLDEN EAGLES

C-USA EAST
PREDICTION

2

SOUTHERN MISS
golden eagles

200

HEAD COACH: LARRY FEDORA RECORD AT SCHOOL: FIRST SEASON CAREER RECORD: FIRST SEASON
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DARRELL WYATT DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TODD BRADFORD
HATTIESBURG, MISS M.M. ROBERTS STADIUM (33,000)

Mike Gundy says Larry Fedora is ready. Fedora, a former assistant at Oklahoma State under Gundy, makes his debut as a Division I head coach this fall, stepping in at Southern Miss to replace Jeff Bower. While he may not have prior experience, Fedora brings an impressive résumé to Hattiesburg, where he'll try to revive the community's passion for a program that has perennially competed for Conference USA championships. Fedora will install his version of the spread offense, one honed during stops as offensive coordinator at Middle Tennessee, Florida and Oklahoma State. At Florida, his 2004 Gator offense ranked first in the SEC in six categories. At Oklahoma State, his 2006 offense was one of only two in the nation to average 200 yards both rushing and passing.

"This is the fourth time I've done it," says Fedora, of implementing the spread. "It's difficult. There is definitely a learning curve. It takes some time for the guys to learn it. You have to be patient. You have to mold it around the talent you have."

Fedora, 45, is looking forward to the challenge. He inherits a program that wasn't exactly struggling. Under Bower, the Golden Eagles had 14 consecutive winning records and appeared in bowl games 10 of the last 11 seasons.

QUARTERBACKS As Fedora installs the spread, he'll be doing so without experience at quarterback. Sophomore Martevious Young broke his leg in a midseason game vs. Rice and was limited to three snaps for the entire season. Young got the majority of the snaps with the first team in the spring and appears to be a good fit for the spread with his dual-threat abilities. Austin Davis is a redshirt freshman with impressive credentials.

RUNNING BACKS While he didn't struggle for yards under the previous staff, junior Damion Fletcher should thrive in the spread offense, where fewer defenders can afford to crowd the line. Fletcher, known for his quickness and strong work ethic, has rushed for 2,974 yards in two seasons. He also has excelled against BCS conference opponents. In last year's bowl game against Cincinnati, he rushed for 155 yards against one of the nation's top run defenses. Backup Tory Harrison was suspended in the offseason and did not participate in spring drills. Antwain Easterling, a former top recruit, quit the team in April.

1

Southern Miss ranked No. 1 in C-USA in red zone offense (91.8 percent success rate) and red zone defense (opponent success rate of 74.5 percent) last season.

RECEIVERS Five of the team's top six in receiving yards are back, and one of the nation's top recruits, DeAndre Brown, will join them. Torris Magee is the top returnee, having caught 44 passes for 632 yards and three scores. Shawn Nelson is an All-America candidate at tight end. He had a team-leading five touchdown catches last fall and could become more involved in the new offense. Brown is too talented to keep off the field.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Calvin Wilson, who began his career at Mississippi State, and veteran Ryan McKee will anchor the line at the tackle spots. Wilson and McKee bring size and experience. McKee, a senior, will be in his third season as a starter. Expect the line to suffer some growing pains as it adjusts to the spread attack.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Golden Eagles will be introducing new starters across the front. Fedora is excited about sophomore noseguard Anthony Gray, who didn't play until late last season because of a foot injury suffered in preseason workouts. Gray's power, quickness and explosiveness could make him an all-league candidate. Tackle Eric Phillips, a fifth-year senior who hasn't played much, had an impressive spring.



LINEBACKERS Gerald McRath, the C-USA Defensive Player of the Year, anchors this unit from his spot in the middle. A leader and a playmaker, McRath averaged nearly 11 tackles per game and was among the top 10 in the league in tackles for a loss. He'll be in his third year as a starter, as will strong-side backer Tokumbo Abanikanda. The weak-side starter may be determined in preseason drills.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Safeties Eddie Hicks and Justin Wilson will lead the defensive backfield. Hicks was extremely active a year ago, finishing with three interceptions, five pass deflections and a forced fumble. Wilson only started three games but had two interceptions and broke up six passes. Cornerback C.J. Bailey, who missed the spring while recovering from shoulder surgery, is a returning starter.

SPECIALISTS There was inconsistency in the kicking game, although Justin Estes booted 8-of-10 field goals to end the season. Senior Britt Barefoot was one of the league's top punters, averaging 42.5 yards per kick.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE
GOLDEN EAGLES

It's going to be an interesting fall in Hattiesburg. Larry Fedora assumes his first head coaching job and brings with him a spread offense that has compiled gaudy statistics at his past three stops — Middle Tennessee, Florida and Oklahoma State — where he served as offensive coordinator. Fedora's arrival has created a buzz. His offense should do the same, though there will be some growing pains. There's no established quarterback, but the offense has several reliable, productive contributors, from junior running back **Damion Fletcher** to tight end **Shawn Nelson**. Fedora says his offense, unlike other spread attacks, will rely on multiple tempos to keep defenses honest, which should help the transition. "I think that makes it a lot harder to defend," Fedora says. "I think that's the edge we have over most teams; we constantly change the tempo throughout the game." Defensively, the Golden Eagles, despite changes across their front line, should again be one of the league's best. Last fall, Southern Miss ranked first in scoring defense (24.2 ppg) and second in total defense (366.4 ypg). Junior linebacker **Gerald McRath**, the league's reigning Defensive Player of the Year, will lead the group, but defensive tackle **Anthony Gray**, a sophomore, is an emerging all-league candidate.



DAMION FLETCHER

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	UL Lafayette	W
S. 6	at Auburn	L
S. 13	at Arkansas State	W
S. 20	Marshall	W
O. 4	UTEP	W
O. 11	Boise State	*
O. 18	at Rice	W
O. 25	at Memphis	W
N. 1	UAB	W
N. 8	at UCF	*
N. 15	East Carolina	*
N. 29	at SMU	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Sam Jordan



2008 SOUTHERN MISS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

13 Davis, Austin	6-2/205	Fr.
16 Hardin, Randy	5-11/202	Fr.
9 Wilson, Todd	6-3/209	Sr.
14 Young, Martevious	6-1/185	So.

RUNNING BACKS

33 Adams, Joshua	5-11/239	Fr.
31 Barton, Josh	5-11/221	Jr.
36 Bryant, Isaac	5-11/212	Jr.
25 Fletcher, Damion	5-10/175	Jr.
2 Floyd, V.J.	5-10/191	So.
11 Harrison, Tory	6-1/188	Jr.
40 Hurd, Josh	6-0/214	So.
34 Kirksey, Bubba	5-10/180	Jr.
35 Roan, Kameron	5-8/160	Jr.
39 Turner, Daren	5-11/230	So.

RECEIVERS

86 Baptiste, Gerald	6-0/171	Jr.
18 Dixon, Jeremy	6-0/185	Fr.
17 Hodges, Deon	6-2/210	Jr.
80 Magee, Torris	6-2/204	So.
26 Morgan, Ed	5-9/160	Sr.
83 Morris, Johndrick	6-3/195	So.
6 Parham, Freddie	6-0/175	Jr.
81 Rhoden, Chris	6-4/194	Sr.
16 Sims, Jerrod	5-9/170	Jr.
27 Spight, William	5-10/160	Fr.
21 White, Tommy	6-2/210	So.

TIGHT ENDS

19 Massey, Jonathan	6-3/250	So.
1 Nelson, Shawn	6-5/240	Jr.
32 Wommack, Kane	6-0/230	Sr.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

61 Brady, James	6-4/275	Fr.
69 Brown, Micah	6-2/275	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/205	Fr.
5-11/202	Fr.
6-3/209	Sr.
6-1/185	So.

HT/WT CL

5-11/239	Fr.
5-11/221	Jr.
5-11/212	Jr.
5-10/175	Jr.
5-10/191	So.
6-1/188	Jr.
6-0/214	So.
5-10/180	Jr.
5-8/160	Jr.
5-11/230	So.

HT/WT CL

6-0/171	Jr.
6-0/185	Fr.
6-2/210	Jr.
6-2/204	So.
5-9/160	Sr.
6-3/195	So.
6-0/175	Jr.
6-4/194	Sr.
5-9/170	Jr.
5-10/160	Fr.
6-2/210	So.

HT/WT CL

6-3/250	So.
6-5/240	Jr.
6-0/230	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-4/275	Fr.
6-2/275	Jr.

HOMETOWN

Meridian, MS
Jacksonville, FL
Mobile, AL
Alexander City, AL

HOMETOWN

Lafayette, LA
Mobile, AL
Pearl, MS
Biloxi, MS
Orlando, FL
Leesburg, FL
Gulf Breeze, FL
Hattiesburg, MS
Biloxi, MS
Las Vegas, NV

HOMETOWN

New Orleans, LA
Gulfport, MS
Moss Point, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Thibodaux, LA
Baton Rouge, LA
Margaret, AL
MacClenny, FL
Waynesboro, MS
Montgomery, AL
Bastrop, LA

HOMETOWN

Pascagoula, MS
Gonzales, LA
Atlanta, GA

HOMETOWN

Carriere, MS
Troy, AL

60 Brown, R.J.	6-3/300	Jr.
63 Clark, Kyle	6-0/265	Fr.
75 Coleman, Sam	6-1/357	Jr.
64 Dodd, James	6-2/290	Fr.
65 Driskell, Jimmy	6-2/307	Sr.
71 Hebert, Ryan	6-5/305	Jr.
70 Housley, Wesley	6-2/287	Sr.
76 Houston, Brennan	6-4/301	Jr.
66 McKee, Ryan	6-6/275	Sr.
55 Michael, Alex	6-2/310	So.
72 Wilson, Calvin	6-6/352	Jr.
59 Zipp, Cameron	6-1/289	So.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

98 Barragan, Rolando	6-3/295	Jr.
96 Boyce, David	6-6/243	So.
94 Burns, Andrew	6-4/245	Fr.
45 Byrd, Roshad	6-3/258	So.
91 Dotson, Demar	6-9/260	Sr.
95 Gray, Anthony	6-0/311	So.
93 Hickman, Logan	6-3/265	Fr.
37 Jones, Dedrick	6-3/230	Fr.
90 Law, Cordarro	6-2/230	Fr.
77 McDewitt, James	6-3/240	So.
97 Nyang, Mam	6-3/250	Sr.
92 Phillips, Eric	6-7/280	Sr.

LINEBACKERS

41 Abanikanda, Tokumbo	6-0/217	Sr.
21 Davis, Brandon	6-1/205	Jr.
50 Everett, Octavious	6-0/230	Jr.
99 Green, Tim	6-3/190	Fr.
54 Leonard, Antonio	6-2/195	So.
46 Lyons, Jerome	6-1/224	Sr.
24 McRath, Gerald	6-3/220	Jr.
56 Slater, Noah	6-3/218	Fr.
32 Smith, Martez	6-0/210	So.
38 Snowden, Jeremy	6-3/195	Fr.

McLain, MS
Paulina, LA
Temple Hills, MD
Barton, FL
Semmes, AL
Gray, LA
LaPlace, LA
Norwalk, CA
Spanish Fort, AL
Meridian, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Mandeville, LA

HT/WT CL

6-3/295	Jr.
6-6/243	So.
6-4/245	Fr.
6-3/258	So.
6-9/260	Sr.
6-0/311	So.
6-3/265	Fr.
6-3/230	Fr.
6-2/230	Fr.
6-3/240	So.
6-3/250	Sr.
6-7/280	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-0/217	Sr.
6-1/205	Jr.
6-0/230	Jr.
6-3/190	Fr.
6-2/195	So.
6-1/224	Sr.
6-3/220	Jr.
6-3/218	Fr.
6-0/210	So.
6-3/195	Fr.

HOMETOWN

Inglewood, CA
Gonzales, LA
Columbiana, AL
Meridian, MS
Alexandria, LA
Philadelphia, MS
Gulf Shores, AL
Bastrop, LA
Whitfield, AL
Mobile, AL
Smyrna, GA
Birmingham, AL

HOMETOWN

Marietta, GA
Meridian, MS
Valdosta, GA
Columbia, SC
Jonesboro, LA
Houston, MS
Powder Springs, GA
Metairie, LA
Camden, MS
Liberty, MS

48 Spiers, Blake	6-2/225	Sr.
56 Thornton, Ronnie	6-3/225	Fr.
42 Williams, Korey	6-2/220	Fr.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

39 Bailey, C.J.	5-10/182	So.
17 Bradshaw, Ivory	6-1/185	Sr.
29 Brown, Hunter	5-11/168	Fr.
19 Grant, Carlos	6-1/186	So.
25 Green, John	6-0/225	Sr.
38 Harris, Antrone	5-11/200	Sr.
18 Hicks, Eddie	6-2/185	Jr.
22 Hughes, Jamison	6-2/203	Fr.
30 Hunter, Chico	6-0/190	So.
1 Inoa, Paul	5-11/183	Sr.
11 King, Richard	5-10/175	Fr.
13 Love Jr., Ed	5-11/188	Jr.
28 McGee, Michael	5-10/181	Jr.
16 North, Kevin	5-11/207	Sr.
5 O'Neal, Cameron	6-0/180	Fr.
20 Page, Carlus	6-0/187	Jr.
2 Pellerin, Micah	6-1/182	Fr.
9 Williams Jr., Claude	5-8/210	Fr.
23 Willingham, Eddie	5-10/179	Sr.
26 Wilson, Justin	5-11/185	So.

SPECIALISTS

3 Barefoot, Britt (K/P)	6-0/181	Sr.
20 Cobb, Barrett (P/K)	6-0/200	Jr.
13 Estes, Justin (K)	5-9/160	So.
86 Hicks, Brett (P)	6-0/185	Sr.
52 Hill, Andy (LS)	6-2/218	Jr.
9 Lanphere, Dylan (K)	6-3/205	So.
6 Sablich, John (K)	5-11/180	Sr.
60 Tawater, Cody (LS)	6-3/244	Jr.

Brandon, MS
Miami, FL
New Orleans, LA

HT/WT CL

5-10/182	So.
6-1/185	Sr.
5-11/168	Fr.
6-1/186	So.
6-0/225	Sr.
5-11/200	Sr.
6-2/185	Jr.
6-2/203	Fr.
6-0/190	So.
5-11/183	Sr.
5-10/175	Fr.
5-11/188	Jr.
5-10/181	Jr.
5-11/207	Sr.
6-0/180	Fr.
6-0/187	Jr.
6-1/182	Fr.
5-8/210	Fr.
5-10/179	Sr.
5-11/185	So.

HT/WT CL

6-0/181	Sr.
6-0/200	Jr.
5-9/160	So.
6-0/185	Sr.
6-2/218	Jr.
6-3/205	So.
5-11/180	Sr.
6-3/244	Jr.

HOMETOWN

Laurel, MS
Clinton, MS
Marietta, OH
Jayess, MS
Spanish Fort, AL
Tupelo, MS
Ocean Springs, MS
Philadelphia, MS

2008 SIGNEES

Bud Barksdale	DB	6-0	190
Darius Barnes	DE	6-4	235
Rolando Barragan	DT	6-3	295
DeAndre Brown	WR	6-6	208
R.J. Brown	OL	6-3	300
Kyle Burkhart	OL	6-4	280
Nick Chartain	OL	6-5	325
Terrance Conner	DE	6-4	234
Austin Davis	QB	6-2	205
Joe Duhon	OL	6-3	284
Jamison Hughes	DB	6-1	200
Bret Jefcoat	QB	6-1	200
Desmond Johnson	RB	5-11	190
Jonathan Massey	TE	6-3	250
Jordan McNair	WR	6-2	170
Willie Packer	DT	6-1	275
Freddie Parham	WR	5-11	180
Quentin Pierce	ATH	6-0	175
Terrance Pope	DT	6-1	280
Kendrick Presley	DB	6-1	195
Austin Quattrochi	OL	6-3	265
Marcal Robinson	DB	6-0	165
Joel Ross	DT	6-1	300
Quin Sanford	OL	6-1	295
Ronnie Thornton	LB	6-3	215
Bo Tillman	DT	6-6	295
Josh Tillman	DE	6-5	245
Andre Watson	DB	5-10	180
Bruce Wilbourn	WR	6-0	185

Fedora's class was considered one of the top 40 in the nation by several recruiting services and was bolstered by highly sought receiver DeAndre Brown of Ocean Springs, Miss. Brown, a 6-6, 208-pound receiver and a prep All-American, chose Southern Miss over LSU and should be a perfect fit in the Golden Eagles' spread offense.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR 86 Gerald Baptiste (Jr.)	26 Ed Morgan (Sr.)
WR 80 Torris Magee (So.)	27 William Spight (Fr.)
WR DeAndre Brown (Fr.)	6 Freddie Parham (Jr.)
LT 72 Calvin Wilson (Jr.)	65 Jimmy Driskell (Sr.)
LG 76 Wesley Housley (Sr.)	60 R.J. Brown (Jr.)
C 59 Cameron Zipp (So.)	55 Alex Michael (So.)
RG 71 Ryan Hebert (Jr.)	69 Micah Brown (Jr.)
RT 66 Ryan McKee (Sr.)	69 Micah Brown (Jr.)
TE 1 Shawn Nelson (Sr.)	19 Jonathan Massey (So.)
QB 14 Martevious Young (So.)	13 Austin Davis (Fr.)
TB 25 Damion Fletcher (Jr.)	34 Bubba Kirksey (Jr.)

DEFENSE (4)

LE 94 Andrew Burns (Fr.)	37 Dedrick Jones (Fr.)
NT 95 Anthony Gray (So.)	93 Logan Hickman (Fr.)
DT 92 Eric Phillips (Sr.)	98 Rolando Barragan (Jr.)
RE 96 David Boyce (So.)	90 Cordarro Law (Fr.)
LB 41 Tokumbo Abanikanda (Sr.)	48 Blake Spiers (Sr.)
LB 24 Gerald McRath (Jr.)	46 Jerome Lyons (Sr.)
LB 21 Brandon Davis (Jr.)	99 Tim Green (Fr.)
CB 28 Michael McGee (Jr.)	2 Micah Pellerin (Fr.)
CB 39 C.J. Bailey (So.)	23 Eddie Willingham (Sr.)
SS 26 Justin Wilson (So.)	5 Cameron O'Neal (Fr.)
FS 18 Eddie Hicks (Jr.)	30 Chico Hunter (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 13 Justin Estes (So.)	KR 11 Tory Harrison (Jr.)
P 3 Britt Barefoot (Sr.)	PR 11 Tory Harrison (Jr.)

RECORD: 7-6 (5-3 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	Tennessee—Martin	W	35-13
S. 8	at Tennessee	L	39-19
S. 15	at East Carolina	W	28-21
S. 27	at Boise State	L	38-16
O. 3	Rice	L	31-29
O. 13	SMU	W	28-7
O. 21	at Marshall	W	33-24
O. 28	UCF	L	34-17
N. 3	at UAB	W	37-7
N. 10	Memphis	L	29-26
N. 17	at UTEP	W	56-30
N. 24	Arkansas State	W	16-10
D. 22	#Cincinnati	L	31-21

#PapaJohn's.com Bowl

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jeremy Young	224	120	1,464	11	8
Stephen Reaves	151	95	943	3	8
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Damion Fletcher	295	1,586	5.4	15	
Tory Harrison	95	393	4.1	5	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Torris Magee	44	632	14.4	3	
Chris Johnson	34	418	12.3	3	
Shawn Nelson	33	451	13.7	5	
Damion Fletcher	29	227	7.8	0	

Kicking: Justin Estes, 15-22 FGs, 39-41 XPs, 84 points
Tackles: Gerald McRath, 139; Brandon Sumrall, 98
Sacks: Matthew Chatelain, 7.5
Interceptions: Brandon Sumrall, 6



HEAD COACH: NEIL CALLAWAY **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 2-10 (1 YEAR) **CAREER RECORD:** 2-10 (1 YEAR)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: KIM HELTON **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** ERIC SCHUMANN
 BIRMINGHAM, ALA. LEGION FIELD (72,000)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

109

BLAZERS



C-USA EAST
PREDICTION

6

UAB
blazers

Neil Callaway's second season as the head football coach at UAB doesn't come with as many unanswered questions as a year ago. But there is one important question surrounding the UAB program: Can the Blazers take a step toward a more respectable record than last year's 2-10 finish?

That's hard to answer, considering UAB still fields one of the most youthful lineups in the conference. Freshmen dotted the starting lineup a year ago, and those players are still relatively inexperienced. Callaway will also rely once again on a bunch of newcomers for immediate help.

However, one thing is certain. UAB is bigger, stronger and more physical than a year ago, and the Blazers are in better position to win games. The final record may not show the improvement — particularly with another grueling schedule — but Callaway believes his team is ready to take a step in the right direction.

QUARTERBACKS Joe Webb has been the quarterback of the future for the past three seasons. It's finally time for the talented 6'4", 220-pound Birmingham native to get his full-time shot at quarterback. Webb, a starter

at wide receiver and part-time quarterback last season, is one of the most athletically gifted quarterbacks in Conference USA. He'll make as many

— if not more — plays with his legs than his right arm but needs to stay healthy with a pair of inexperienced backups in sophomore Anthony Speight and former walk-on Rodney Bivens Jr.

RUNNING BACKS Aaron Johns needs to be really good, really fast. The former University of Alabama tailback played junior college football for a year but was ineligible last fall. He's expected to show up in August and get the immediate opportunity to earn the starting job. The best running backs in the spring were sophomores Dexter Barnett and Justin Brooks. Redshirt freshman Jae Fitzgerald also has a chance to contribute.

RECEIVERS Frantrell Forrest had a team-best 49 catches for 563 yards last season and appears poised to produce even bigger numbers. Mario Wright has the potential to become one of the best receivers in the conference, Sylvester Mencer is the most experienced receiver on the team, and tight ends Jeffrey Anderson and Zach Lankford have the ability to help in the passing game. Rashaud Slaughter moves to slot receiver after serving as the team's running back last year. This should be the deepest position on offense.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Things are better up front this season than they were a year ago, but this group still must grow up for the Blazers to move the ball. Jake Seitz, a two-year starter at center, will probably slide over to left guard and allow redshirt freshman Caleb Thomas to play center. There's also significant experience at tackle with Matt McCants and Terence Edge, who started as true freshmen. Adam Hollifield missed spring with a foot injury but will battle transfer Daniel Seahorn at right guard.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The defense will probably be as good as the defensive front allows. That might not necessarily be good news. UAB is certainly more experienced than a year ago — primarily because nearly everyone returns — but the Blazers are still young and not particularly big. Sophomore end Bryant Turner and sophomore tackles Tim Davis and D.J. Reese are probably the best of the bunch.

LINEBACKERS Callaway and his coaches hit the recruiting trail hard trying to find linebackers. They were successful in finding numbers — seven linebackers were among the signing class — but time will tell if they found talent. It helps that senior Joe Henderson — 207 tackles in three seasons — returns. Mike Tashman is an undersized playmaker, B.J. Steed has starting experience in the middle, and Keon Harris had a good spring. Look for plenty of newcomers to find playing time.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Perhaps the best offseason news was free safety Will Dunbar's decision to return for his final year. The 6'1", 195-pounder was the leading tackler in C-USA last season despite playing over half of the season with a banged-up knee. He'll be surrounded by experience — most notably cornerbacks Kevin Sanders and Brandon Carlisle and strong safety Matt Taylor.

SPECIALISTS Swayze Waters handles punts, field goals, extra points and kickoffs, and is one of the best in the nation. Waters did miss spring work after having surgery on his right hip. He's expected to be ready for the opener, but Trey Ragland could provide help.

231

Linebacker Joe Henderson and safety Will Dunbar combined for 231 tackles last season. Care to guess who will lead the defense this season?

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BLAZERS

The good news is last year's lineup is a year older. The bad news is that this is still a painfully young team and depth is still an issue. Quarterback Joe Webb has the ability to be one of the more dynamic players in Conference USA. But can the offensive line give Webb the protection to keep him healthy for the entire season? Keep in mind that the Blazers' starting left tackle last season spent more time playing the tuba in the band than he did on the high school football field. The running game should be improved, especially if one-time Alabama tailback Aaron Johns is eligible in the fall. The defensive players are bigger and stronger than a year ago but may still need more time in the weight room to hold up to the stress of a long season. The schedule is also challenging with non-conference games against the likes of Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida Atlantic and C-USA trips to Southern Miss, Houston, UCF and Tulane. If the Blazers can stay relatively healthy, then they should be competitive the entire season. If injuries take a toll, however, it could be another long season in Birmingham.



JOE HENDERSON

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Tulsa	L
S. 6	at Florida Atlantic	L
S. 13	at Tennessee	L
S. 20	Alabama State	W
S. 27	at South Carolina	L
O. 2	Memphis	L
O. 9	at Houston	L
O. 18	Marshall	*
N. 1	at Southern Miss	L
N. 15	at Tulane	*
N. 22	East Carolina	L
N. 29	at UCF	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Paul J. Jurek



2008 UAB ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

14 Bivens Jr., Rodney	6-0/195	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, AL
12 Cowart, Cameron	6-3/205	Sr.	Weston, FL
10 Ellis, Bryan	6-2/200	Fr.	Byron, GA
9 Speight, Anthony	6-3/205	So.	Bessemer, AL
5 Webb, Joe	6-4/220	Jr.	Birmingham, AL

RUNNING BACKS

37 Allen, Emmanuel	5-9/195	So.	Muscle Shoals, AL
38 Barnett, Dexter	5-10/175	So.	Atlanta, GA
26 Brooks, Justin	5-10/190	So.	Dothan, AL
44 Dyck, Caleb	5-10/205	So.	Dothan, AL
2 Fitzgerald, Jae	5-11/195	Fr.	Crestwood, SC
41 Jones, Reggie	5-9/185	Jr.	Bessemer, AL
40 Mitchell, Jim	5-10/185	Jr.	Lawrenceville, GA
48 Prince, Willie	6-1/230	Fr.	Alabaster, AL

RECEIVERS

47 Brown, Justin	5-8/160	Fr.	Marietta, GA
7 Forrest, Frantrell	6-2/195	So.	Mobile, AL
89 Harris, Darryl	5-10/170	Jr.	Bessemer, AL
83 Heath, Brandon	6-2/195	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
82 Johnson, Justin	6-3/200	So.	Dothan, AL
22 Jones, Mike	6-1/180	So.	Nashville, TN
15 Mencer, Sylvester	5-11/185	Sr.	Midfield, AL
23 Powers, Antoine	5-5/165	Sr.	Hazel Green, AL
36 Scholar, Paul	6-2/200	Jr.	Jemison, AL
1 Slaughter, Rashaud	5-9/185	Jr.	Adamsville, AL
24 Thompson, Cameron	6-6/185	So.	Little Rock, AR
11 Wright, Mario	6-5/205	So.	Birmingham, AL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

TIGHT ENDS

86 Anderson, Jeffrey	6-3/220	So.	Selma, AL
84 Lankford, Zach	6-4/250	Jr.	Dacula, GA
81 Powers, Cory	6-5/245	Fr.	Auburndale, FL
88 Smith, Julian	6-2/240	Jr.	Birmingham, AL

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

64 Calhoun, Greg	6-5/300	Fr.	Alexander City, AL
72 Creel, Logan	6-5/285	So.	Loganville, GA
59 Dailey, Sean	6-3/265	Fr.	Trussville, AL
55 Edge, Terence	6-3/265	So.	Atlanta, GA
68 Hollifield, Adam	6-3/300	Jr.	Hoover, AL
71 McCants, Matt	6-7/295	So.	Mobile, AL
56 Roget, Ryan	6-3/285	Jr.	Arlington, TX
75 Seahorn, Daniel	6-2/300	Jr.	Houston, TX
53 Seitz, Jake	6-2/300	Jr.	Vestavia Hills, AL
73 Thomas, Caleb	6-3/280	Fr.	Decatur, AL
63 Thompson, Willie	6-6/285	Jr.	Louisville, GA
67 Waller, Joseph	6-4/290	So.	Huntsville, AL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

98 Arthur, Adam	6-2/260	Fr.	San Antonio, TX
95 Carter, Richard	6-6/240	Sr.	Lovejoy, GA
91 Davis, Tim	6-0/265	So.	Apopka, FL
90 Happe, Joe	6-4/250	Jr.	Canton, GA
76 Howanitz, Todd	6-7/265	Jr.	Hanover Township, PA
52 Quarles, Kelvin	6-2/230	Jr.	Tucker, GA
97 Reese, D.J.	6-4/280	So.	Daphne, AL
96 Smith, Xavier	6-0/270	Sr.	Mobile, AL
99 Speights, Jerrickus	6-5/255	Sr.	Gardendale, AL
87 Turner, Bryant	6-2/245	So.	Daphne, AL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

LINEBACKERS

49 Bradley, Dukes	6-0/218	So.	Fort Payne, AL
13 Harris, Keon	5-11/200	So.	LaGrange, GA
51 Henderson, Joe	6-2/220	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
44 Roget, Kyle	6-1/235	Jr.	Arlington, TX
45 Steed, B.J.	6-1/230	Jr.	Sioux City, IA
33 Tashman, Mike	6-0/210	So.	Hoover, AL
46 Thomas, Terry	6-1/230	Sr.	Bessemer, AL
47 Wade, Rowdy	6-2/215	Jr.	Parrish, AL

DEFENSIVE BACKS

19 Amarikawa, Ugonna	6-0/180	Fr.	Houston, TX
20 Blair, Jimmie	6-0/180	Fr.	Camp LeJeune, NC
4 Carlisle, Brandon	5-10/180	Jr.	Auburn, AL
36 Clever, Jeremy	5-10/180	Fr.	Marietta, GA
8 Coleman, Marquis	6-1/185	Fr.	Chester, SC
18 Dunbar, Will	6-1/195	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
25 Ferguson, Brock	6-2/200	So.	Montgomery, AL
27 McRae, Michael	5-11/175	So.	Sarasota, FL
21 Sanders, Kevin	5-11/185	Sr.	Pell City, AL
26 Smart, Justin	5-11/175	So.	Atlanta, GA
42 Stafford, Ferson	5-9/170	Fr.	Phenix City, AL
43 Taylor, Matt	5-11/185	Sr.	Birmingham, AL
30 Thomas, Aaron	5-10/185	Fr.	Stone Mountain, GA
17 Witt, Jeff	5-11/170	So.	Hartselle, AL

SPECIALISTS

60 Haddad, Nick (LS)	5-10/205	Sr.	Atlanta, GA
62 Hamby, Jeff (LS)	6-1/205	Sr.	Vestavia Hills, AL
24 Ragland, Trey (K)	5-11/175	Fr.	Trussville, AL
94 Waters, Swayze (K/P)	6-0/170	Sr.	Jackson, MS

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

2008 SIGNEES

Chris Assily	S	6-2	215
Anthony Barnes	DE	6-3	255
Josh Brinson	WR	6-1	165
Rodell Carter	WR	6-4	220
Chase Daniel	S	6-2	200
Nick Davidson	DT	6-0	275
David Decordova	DT	6-2	280
Mark Ferrell	WR	6-2	220
Tyler Fowler	OL	6-6	290
Elliott Henigan	DL	6-4	240
Andre Hicks	DB	5-9	165
David Isabelle	QB	6-3	185
Aaron Johns	RB	5-10	190
Jared Koechner	OL	6-5	285
Drew Luker	LB	6-3	180
Patrick Reynolds	DB	5-9	175
Kyle Roget	LB	6-1	235
Ryan Roget	OL	6-3	285
Dominique Roulach	LB	6-1	240
Daniel Seahorn	OL	6-2	300
Terrell Springs	DB	5-9	175
LaManski Ware	LB	6-2	205
Jarrell Watters	LB	6-0	225
Kattrell Watters	LB	6-0	235
Daniel White	LB	6-2	220

Callaway stepped outside his recruiting philosophy and signed 11 junior college players among the class of 25. The reasons were pretty obvious. Running back Aaron Johns — a former Alabama player — signed a year ago, didn't qualify and is back to try again. The Blazers also went heavy at linebacker with seven signees slated to play that position. The best of the group may be junior college transfers Kyle Roget and Dominique Roulach. Rodell Carter and Mark Ferrell are two nice-sized junior college wide receivers.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR 7 Frantrell Forrest (So.)	Mark Ferrell (Jr.)
WR 11 Mario Wright (So.)	1 Rashaud Slaughter (Jr.)
WR 15 Sylvester Mencer (Sr.)	22 Mike Jones (So.)
LT 71 Matt McCants (So.)	63 Willie Thompson (Jr.)
LG 53 Jake Seitz (Jr.)	67 Joseph Waller (So.)
C 73 Caleb Thomas (Fr.)	59 Sean Dailey (Fr.)
RG 68 Adam Hollifield (Jr.)	75 Daniel Seahorn (Jr.)
RT 55 Terence Edge (So.)	64 Greg Calhoun (Fr.)
TE 86 Jeffrey Anderson (So.)	84 Zach Lankford (Jr.)
QB 5 Joe Webb (Jr.)	9 Anthony Speight (So.)
RB Aaron Johns (Sr.)	38 Dexter Barnett (So.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE 87 Bryant Turner (So.)	99 Jerrickus Speights (Sr.)
DT 91 Tim Davis (So.)	76 Todd Howanitz (Jr.)
DT 97 D.J. Reese (So.)	98 Adam Arthur (Fr.)
DE 95 Richard Carter (Sr.)	90 Joe Happe (Jr.)
SLB 33 Mike Tashman (So.)	13 Keon Harris (So.)
MLB Dominique Roulach (Jr.)	45 B.J. Steed (Jr.)
WLB 51 Joe Henderson (Sr.)	44 Kyle Roget (Jr.)
CB 21 Kevin Sanders (Sr.)	8 Marquis Coleman (Fr.)
CB 4 Brandon Carlisle (Jr.)	19 Ugonna Amarikawa (Fr.)
SS 43 Matt Taylor (Sr.)	25 Brock Ferguson (So.)
FS 18 Will Dunbar (Sr.)	Chris Assily (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 94 Swayze Waters (Sr.)	KR 1 Rashaud Slaughter (Jr.)
P 94 Swayze Waters (Sr.)	PR 21 Kevin Sanders (Sr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 2-10 (1-7 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	at Michigan State	L	55-18
S. 8	at Florida State	L	34-24
S. 15	Alcorn State	W	22-0
S. 29	at Tulsa	L	38-30
O. 6	at Mississippi State	L	30-13
O. 13	Tulane	W	26-21
O. 20	Houston	L	49-10
O. 27	at East Carolina	L	41-6
N. 3	Southern Miss	L	37-7
N. 10	UCF	L	45-31
N. 17	at Memphis	L	25-9
N. 24	at Marshall	L	46-39

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Hunt	331	155	1,905	10	14
Joe Webb	117	65	679	5	1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Rashaud Slaughter	100	325	3.2	1	
Joe Webb	67	288	4.3	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Frantrell Forrest	49	563	11.5	5	
Joseph Webb	30	459	15.3	3	
Mario Wright	27	272	10.1	4	
Rashaud Slaughter	22	123	5.6	0	

Kicking: Swayze Waters, 22-28 FGs, 21-23 XPs, 87 points

Tackles: Will Dunbar, 122; Joe Henderson, 109

Sacks: Joe Henderson, 5

Interceptions: Kevin Sanders, 3

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: GEORGE O'LEARY **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 22-28 (4 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 74-61 (11 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TIM SALEM **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** DAVE HUXTABLE

ORLANDO, FLA. BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS STADIUM (45,323)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

79

KNIGHTS

UCF

C-USA EAST
PREDICTION

3

UCF knights

UCF

After a few years of building his roster, UCF coach George O'Leary will finally begin a season with players recruited entirely by his staff. Arguably the best recruit in that time, running back Kevin Smith, is off to the NFL. But the Knights return a total of 14 starters this season and have probably their best all-around recruiting class to fill in the gaps. Where last season this team followed the lead of its offense, don't be surprised if O'Leary, who made his reputation with solid defensive units, demands the same leadership out of his defense.

QUARTERBACKS Even with the loss of starter Kyle Israel to graduation, the Knights have some options at quarterback. Junior Mike Greco, Israel's backup in '07, seems like the most likely candidate to win the job by the start of the season. Greco fell a little behind redshirt freshman Joe Weatherford at the end of the spring by sitting out most of the spring game, but he's more mobile than his counterpart. NFL coach Mike Tice's son Nate Tice is likely to be the third option but could get some competition from incoming freshman recruit Rob Calabrese.

RUNNING BACKS Smith isn't walking through that door, folks. But several talented freshmen will be. Last year's backup, junior Phillip Smith, seemed like the new Smith on the block, but he was slowed a little bit in the spring with a leg injury. Don't be surprised if incoming freshmen Brandon Davis and Latavius Murray make a move on the depth chart. The same is true for former walk-on Ronnie Weaver, who earned a scholarship last season.

RECEIVERS This youthful group was hurt slightly by the spring ACL injury of sophomore A.J. Guyton, one of the Knights' top pair of hands last season. But senior Rocky Ross and sophomores Kamar Aiken, Brian Watters and Khymest Williams are just as talented. Guyton will reportedly redshirt, so it will clear the way for others like sophomore Sidney Haynes to make an impact.

30

Kevin Smith, who left school for the NFL, scored 30 touchdowns last year. Smith was also the nation's leading rusher in 2007.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN This group has undergone a lot of change since the Liberty Bowl. Center Kyle Smith, left guard Cliff McCray and right tackle Josh Sitton are all gone. The Knights have tried to retool with senior Cody Minnich at right guard, junior Jeramy DeVane at left guard and senior Mike LaVoie at the starting center spot. The best news for this hybrid group is that sophomore Jah Reid is finding a groove at right tackle, and senior left tackle Patrick Brown is there to provide some leadership.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Knights lost a lot with the graduation of defensive ends Leger Douzable and Emeka Okammor and defensive tackle Keith Shologan. But like their offensive counterparts, the defenders have reloaded. This group should be capable of causing some pressure up front this season. End Antonio Wallace is the lone senior of the group, but he is joined by 2007 All-Conference USA freshman team members Bruce Miller and Darius Nall. Miller had seven sacks last season, and Nall, who began the season at linebacker before migrating to end, had 22 stops and a sack.

LINEBACKERS It isn't a unit that is going to wow you with its blazing closing speed, but this linebacker group is probably the most stable it's been under O'Leary. Cory Hogue had a great offseason and has recovered well from some nagging injuries last season. He has solid guys with him in the form of junior Chance Henderson and sophomores Derrick Hallman and Lawrence Young.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The heart of the Knights' defense, this unit has been intact each of the past two seasons. An all-senior group, they are led by first-team All-Conference USA selection Joe Burnett and the hard-hitting Johnell Neal. Both safeties — Sha'reff Rashad and Jason Venson — are equally agile and will be needed to produce, especially if the defensive line needs a little extra time to jell. Also, look for solid contributions from junior corner Emery Allen and sophomore Darin Baldwin, who got a lot of quality time as a true freshman.

SPECIALISTS The Knights have a new placekicker in transfer Jordan Dodds. Mike Torres, lost to graduation, didn't have the most powerful leg but was very accurate as a senior. The Knights need to get some kind of dependability from the position to keep ghosts like those of the 2005 Hawaii Bowl (missed extra point in overtime loss) out of their memory. Burnett is a dangerous punt returner.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE KNIGHTS

The Knights have a lot to live up to after claiming their first Conference USA championship in 2007 and second bowl berth. Coach George O'Leary's team didn't lose a lot on either side of the ball numbers-wise, but the missing pieces are noticeable. The six losses on offense include the nation's top running back last year in Kevin Smith, who is off to the pro ranks. UCF has plenty of able bodies in the program now (five incoming freshmen backs) to fill the void, but losing more than 30 touchdowns from the offense will affect any team. The good news is that the defense returns nine starters. It has also added some girth in the form of a few transfers and freshman signings. The question will be whether the defense has enough collective leadership to carry the team if the offensive side of the ball doesn't come around immediately. The team is also dealing with the sudden death of teammate Ereck Plancher, a redshirt freshman who died in an offseason workout the day before the start of the spring season. Deaths like these have affected teams in different ways, and it will be interesting to see how the Knights respond emotionally this season.



JOE BURNETT

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	South Carolina State	W
S. 6	South Florida	L
S. 20	at Boston College	L
S. 27	at UTEP	*
O. 4	SMU	W
O. 11	at Miami	L
O. 26	at Tulsa	L
N. 2	East Carolina	*
N. 8	Southern Miss	*
N. 15	at Marshall	W
N. 22	at Memphis	*
N. 29	UAB	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss



2008 UCF ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

2	Greco, Michael	6-3/211	Jr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
11	Slowik, Andy	6-0/186	Fr.	Bradenton, FL
16	Tice, Nate	6-4/203	Fr.	Edina, MN
17	Weatherford, Joe	6-4/198	Fr.	Land O' Lakes, FL

RUNNING BACKS

27	Jamison, James	5-11/215	So.	Starke, FL
46	Kay, Ricky	6-3/245	So.	Deltona, FL
30	Smith, Phillip	6-1/194	Jr.	Mansfield, TX
35	Weaver, Ronnie	6-0/202	Fr.	Sebastian, FL

RECEIVERS

81	Aiken, Kamar	6-2/205	So.	Miami, FL
15	Alexander, Chad	6-2/208	Fr.	Lake Wales, FL
20	Davis, Anthony	5-9/155	Sr.	Boynton Beach, FL
3	Guyton, A.J.	5-11/188	So.	Homestead, FL
80	Haynes, Sidney	6-4/214	So.	Suwanee, GA
89	Hudson, Austin	6-1/195	So.	Gainesville, FL
38	McArthur, J.T.	5-10/184	Fr.	Laurens, SC
9	Newsome, Jamar	6-2/195	So.	St. Petersburg, FL
13	Reams, Jevaguhn	6-2/187	So.	Oakland, CA
5	Ross, Rocky	6-2/196	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
6	Watters, Brian	6-2/180	So.	Rome, GA
82	Williams, Khymest	5-10/171	So.	Lutcher, LA

TIGHT ENDS

40	Gaetjens, Willie	6-5/225	Fr.	Titusville, FL
83	Lubischer, John	6-4/252	So.	Boca Raton, FL
88	Nissley, Adam	6-6/260	Fr.	Cumming, GA
84	Rabazinski, Corey	6-3/238	Jr.	Winter Park, FL
86	Yates, Ricky	6-5/238	So.	Tallahassee, FL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

78	Brown, Patrick	6-5/292	Sr.	St. Charles, IL
73	Bustillo, Ian	6-2/312	Jr.	Miami, FL
75	Buxton, Mike	6-8/314	So.	Bonita Springs, FL
66	DeVane, Jeremy	6-3/300	Jr.	Ormond Beach, FL
64	Faile, David	6-2/302	Fr.	Leesburg, FL
67	Goray, Jake	6-5/260	Fr.	Ft. Walton Beach, FL
62	Lavoie, Mike	6-5/292	Sr.	Sanford, FL
65	McCray, Cliff	6-2/290	Jr.	Miami, FL
68	Minnich, Cody	6-3/296	Sr.	Leesport, PA
72	Offutt, Billy	6-6/305	Fr.	Winter Park, FL
77	Pieschel, Nick	6-7/298	Fr.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
76	Reid, Jah	6-7/320	So.	Haines City, FL
94	Tunuffi Sauvao, Wes	6-3/300	So.	Leesville, LA
71	Wegerif, Dean	6-5/248	Fr.	Merritt Island, FL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

52	Carter, Jack	6-2/219	Fr.	Miami, FL
99	Geathers, Jarvis	6-2/215	Jr.	Andrews, SC
97	Green, Jeremy	6-5/263	Jr.	Archer, FL
46	Haughton, Rashidi	6-3/255	So.	Miami, FL
96	Johnson, Marquis	6-5/249	Jr.	Orlando, FL
49	Miller, Bruce	6-2/249	So.	Canton, GA
53	Nall, Darius	6-3/230	So.	Douglasville, GA
93	Timms, Brian	6-3/230	Jr.	Sarasota, FL
95	Timmons, Travis	6-4/285	Jr.	Gainesville, FL
98	Troup, Torrell	6-3/320	Jr.	Conyers, GA
44	Wallace, Antonio	6-2/251	Sr.	Vero Beach, FL
48	Williams, David	6-2/234	So.	Lexington, SC

LINEBACKERS

38	Hallman, Derrick	6-0/205	So.	Port St. Lucie, FL
47	Harnden, T.J.	6-3/242	Jr.	Tallahassee, FL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

54	Henderson, Chance	6-1/241	Jr.	Conyers, GA
59	Hogue, Cory	6-1/228	Sr.	Naples, FL
58	Lewis, Tom	6-2/205	Fr.	Seminole, FL
50	Linam, Josh	6-3/224	Fr.	Tavares, FL
51	McCahill, Jay	6-1/211	So.	Kinnelon, NJ
56	Richards, Jordan	6-2/226	Jr.	Cary, NC
55	Thompson, Alex	6-2/231	Jr.	Gainesville, FL
57	Young, Lawrence	6-0/212	So.	Pensacola, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS

22	Allen, Emery	5-9/176	Jr.	Milton, FL
20	Baldwin, Darin	5-11/190	So.	Homestead, FL
21	Becker, Jordan	6-4/206	Fr.	Clearwater, FL
23	Boddie, Justin	6-2/190	So.	Atlanta, GA
19	Burnett, Joe	5-11/185	Sr.	Eustis, FL
32	Dorvilus, Fendson	5-10/176	Sr.	Lake Worth, FL
35	Hansborough, Omar	6-2/186	Fr.	Homestead, FL
33	Keys, Chad	6-0/177	Fr.	Covington, LA
31	Neal, Johnell	5-10/176	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA
29	Rashad, Sha'reff	6-0/198	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
37	Rogers, Breon	6-3/207	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
45	Venson, Jason	5-10/211	Sr.	Marietta, GA
40	Weams, Reggie	6-0/187	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
25	Williams, Jayson	6-0/206	Sr.	Conyers, GA

SPECIALISTS

41	Clingan, Blake (P)	6-3/221	So.	Coral Springs, FL
43	Dimauro, Salvatore (K)	6-3/200	Fr.	Boca Raton, FL
45	Dodds, Jordan (K)	5-11/210	So.	Orlando, FL
50	Getsee, James (LS)	6-2/200	Fr.	Miami, FL
44	Iketani, Kyle (K)	5-7/158	So.	Ocala, FL
60	Khawly, Ryan (LS)	6-0/218	So.	Homestead, FL
16	Langley, Parker (P)	5-11/176	So.	Fort Myers, FL

54	Henderson, Chance	6-1/241	Jr.	Conyers, GA
59	Hogue, Cory	6-1/228	Sr.	Naples, FL
58	Lewis, Tom	6-2/205	Fr.	Seminole, FL
50	Linam, Josh	6-3/224	Fr.	Tavares, FL
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56	Richards, Jordan	6-2/226	Jr.	Cary, NC
55	Thompson, Alex	6-2/231	Jr.	Gainesville, FL
57	Young, Lawrence	6-0/212	So.	Pensacola, FL

DEFENSIVE BACKS

22	Allen, Emery	5-9/176	Jr.	Milton, FL
20	Baldwin, Darin	5-11/190	So.	Homestead, FL
21	Becker, Jordan	6-4/206	Fr.	Clearwater, FL
23	Boddie, Justin	6-2/190	So.	Atlanta, GA
19	Burnett, Joe	5-11/185	Sr.	Eustis, FL
32	Dorvilus, Fendson	5-10/176	Sr.	Lake Worth, FL
35	Hansborough, Omar	6-2/186	Fr.	Homestead, FL
33	Keys, Chad	6-0/177	Fr.	Covington, LA
31	Neal, Johnell	5-10/176	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA
29	Rashad, Sha'reff	6-0/198	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
37	Rogers, Breon	6-3/207	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
45	Venson, Jason	5-10/211	Sr.	Marietta, GA
40	Weams, Reggie	6-0/187	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
25	Williams, Jayson	6-0/206	Sr.	Conyers, GA

SPECIALISTS

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43	Dimauro, Salvatore (K)	6-3/200	Fr.	Boca Raton, FL
45	Dodds, Jordan (K)	5-11/210	So.	Orlando, FL
50	Getsee, James (LS)	6-2/200	Fr.	Miami, FL
44	Iketani, Kyle (K)	5-7/158	So.	Ocala, FL
60	Khawly, Ryan (LS)	6-0/218	So.	Homestead, FL
16	Langley, Parker (P)	5-11/176	So.	Fort Myers, FL

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

22	Allen, Emery	5-9/176	Jr.	Milton, FL
20	Baldwin, Darin	5-11/190	So.	Homestead, FL
21	Becker, Jordan	6-4/206	Fr.	Clearwater, FL
23	Boddie, Justin	6-2/190	So.	Atlanta, GA
19	Burnett, Joe	5-11/185	Sr.	Eustis, FL
32	Dorvilus, Fendson	5-10/176	Sr.	Lake Worth, FL
35	Hansborough, Omar	6-2/186	Fr.	Homestead, FL
33	Keys, Chad	6-0/177	Fr.	Covington, LA
31	Neal, Johnell	5-10/176	Fr.	Baton Rouge, LA
29	Rashad, Sha'reff	6-0/198	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL
37	Rogers, Breon	6-3/207	Sr.	Stone Mountain, GA
45	Venson, Jason	5-10/211	Sr.	Marietta, GA
40	Weams, Reggie	6-0/187	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
25	Williams, Jayson	6-0/206	Sr.	Conyers, GA

HT/WT CL

HOMETOWN

41	Clingan, Blake (P)	6-3/221	So.	Coral Springs, FL
43	Dimauro, Salvatore (K)	6-3/200	Fr.	Boca Raton, FL
45	Dodds, Jordan (K)	5-11/210	So.	Orlando, FL
50	Getsee, James (LS)	6-2/200	Fr.	Miami, FL
44	Iketani, Kyle (K)	5-7/158	So.	Ocala, FL
60	Khawly, Ryan (LS)	6-0/218	So.	Homestead, FL
16	Langley, Parker (P)	5-11/176	So.	Fort Myers, FL

41	Clingan, Blake (P)	6-3/221	So.	Coral Springs, FL
43	Dimauro, Salvatore (K)	6-3/200	Fr.	Boca Raton, FL
45	Dodds, Jordan (K)	5-11/210	So.	Orlando, FL
50	Getsee, James (LS)	6-2/200	Fr.	Miami, FL
44	Iketani, Kyle (K)	5-7/158	So.	Ocala, FL
60	Khawly, Ryan (LS)	6-0/218	So.	Homestead, FL
16	Langley, Parker (P)	5-11/176	So.	Fort Myers, FL

2008 SIGNEES

Rob Calabrese	QB	6-2	215
Brandon Davis	RB	5-9	190
Jarvis Geathers	DE	6-2	225
Thao Goins	DT	6-4	285
Brynn Harvey	RB	5-11	215
Chad Hounshell	OL	6-4	300
Brendan Kelly	TE/HB	6-3	235
Chad Keys	DB	6-0	185
Vance King	RB	6-0	195
Josh Linam	LB	6-2	230
Kyle Madden	TE	6-3	250
Chris Martin	DT	6-5	290
Jarrien Moreland	OL	6-4	330
Latavius Murray	RB	6-3	215
John Oliver	OL	6-6	270
Robert Pritchard	DE	6-4	225
Loren Robinson	LB	6-3	195
Steven Robinson	OL	6-3	305
David Williams	LB	6-1	205
Marquee Williams	ATH	6-0	195

After bringing in a lot of speed in 2007, the Knights' recruiting classes keep getting better with the addition of 20 new faces for '08. The class includes five running backs who arrive just in time to help lessen the sting of losing Kevin Smith to the NFL a year early. New York native Latavius Murray rushed for 2,000 yards his junior and senior years at Onondaga Central and is expected to have the best chance out of the quintet to challenge junior Phillip Smith to be the Knights' next starter. Other impact signees include quarterback Rob Calabrese and defensive end Jarvis Geathers, a 225-pound junior college transfer and early enrollee who participated in spring drills.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR	5 Rocky Ross (Sr.)	6 Brian Watters (So.)
WR	81 Kamar Aiken (So.)	82 Khymest Williams (So.)
LT	78 Patrick Brown (Jr.)	75 Mike Buxton (So.)
LG	66 Jeremy DeVane (Jr.)	77 Nick Pieschel (Fr.)
C	62 Mike Lavoie (Sr.)	73 Ian Bustillo (Jr.)
RG	68 Cody Minnich (Sr.)	94 Wes Tunuffi Sauvao (So.)
RT	76 Jah Reid (So.)	72 Billy Offutt (Fr.)
TE	84 Corey Rabazinski (Jr.)	88 Adam Nissley (Fr.)
QB	2 Michael Greco (Jr.)	17 Joe Weatherford (Fr.)
FB	46 Ricky Kay (So.)	Latavius Murray (Fr.)
RB	30 Phillip Smith (Jr.)	35 Ronnie Weaver (Fr.)

DEFENSE (9)

DE	53 Darius Nall (So.)	44 Antonio Wallace (Sr.)
DT	95 Travis Timmons (Jr.)	46 Rashidi Haughton (So.)
NT	98 Torrell Troup (Jr.)	47 T.J. Harnden (Jr.)
DE	49 Bruce Miller (So.)	99 Jarvis Geathers (Jr.)
SLB	38 Derrick Hallman (So.)	56 Jordan Richards (Jr.)
MLB	54 Chance Henderson (Jr.)	55 Alex Thompson (Jr.)
WLB	59 Cory Hogue (Sr.)	57 Lawrence Young (So.)
CB	31 Johnell Neal (Sr.)	22 Emery Allen (Jr.)
CB	19 Joe Burnett (Sr.)	20 Darin Baldwin (So.)
SS	29 Sha'reff Rashad (Sr.)	23 Justin Boddie (So.)
FS	45 Jason Venson (Sr.)	37 Breon Rogers (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	45 Jordan Dodds (So.)	KR	82 Khymest Williams (So.)
P	41 Blake Clingan (So.)	PR	19 Joe Burnett (Sr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-4 (7-1 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	at NC State	W	25-23
S. 15	Texas	L	35-32
S. 22	Memphis	W	56-20
S. 29	UL-Lafayette	W	37-19
O. 6	at East Carolina	L	52-38
O. 13	at South Florida	L	64-12
O. 20	Tulsa	W	44-23
O. 28	at Southern Miss	W	34-17
N. 3	Marshall	W	47-13
N. 10	at UAB	W	45-31
N. 17	at SMU	W	49-20
N. 24	UTEP	W	36-20
D. 1	%Tulsa	W	44-25
D. 29	#Mississippi State	L	10-3
%C-USA Championship Game #Liberty Bowl			

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kyle Israel	298	174	2,173	15	11
Michael Greco	45	24	303	0	1
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Kevin Smith	450	2,567	5.7	29	
Phillip Smith	52	246	4.7	4	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Rocky Ross	50	658	13.2	2	
Kamar Aiken	33	584	17.7	5	
Kevin Smith	24	242	10.1	1	
A.J. Guyton	23	253	11.0	2	

Kicking: Michael Torres, 20-24 FGs, 50-51 XPs, 110 points
Tackles: Sha'reff Rashad, 103; Jason Venson, 92
Sacks: Leger Douzable, 7.5
Interceptions: Two players tied with 6

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: KEVIN SUMLIN **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** FIRST SEASON **CAREER RECORD:** FIRST SEASON
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: DANA HOLGORSSEN, JASON PHILLIPS **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** JOHN SKLADANY
 HOUSTON, TEXAS ROBERTSON STADIUM (32,000)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE COUGARS

Let's get one thing out of the way — Houston is going to be good. Very good, perhaps. Sure, over the past couple of years, the Cougars were good enough to win a combined 18 games and make one trip to the Liberty Bowl as the Conference USA champions (2006). But **Kevin Sumlin's** Cougars are going to be a different kind of good. The last few teams excelled because of **Art Briles'** complex hybrid spread attack that buried opponents under an avalanche of points. But while Briles may have utilized a thinking man's offense, there appeared to be absolutely no thought at all put into special teams or discipline, details which often left the Cougars exposed against better teams. Sumlin plans to change all that. After arriving from Oklahoma, Sumlin knew he had a nice well of returning talent, so he immediately began stripping things down to the fundamentals. Footwork became a priority, from linemen on both sides of the ball to quarterbacks. Receivers were introduced to the notion of precise route running. Defensive backs were re-schooled in coverage techniques. In short, talent wasn't good enough. If the Cougars are going to be good — very good — they're going to need to outthink and out-execute opponents rather than simply trying to outscore them.

The Houston Cougars, who have utilized basketball-style transition football to roll up 18 wins over the past two seasons, are undergoing a slightly different type of transition this season. Check that — a vastly different style. The Cougars said goodbye to former coach Art Briles, who took over the ailing Baylor program, and welcomed new coach Kevin Sumlin, who has spent the last five years on Bob Stoops' staff at Oklahoma. Sumlin intends to maintain an "aggressive style of offense," which will blend elements of Briles' quirky spread attack with Texas Tech's explosive passing game. Sumlin has hired former Red Raiders offensive coordinator Dana Holgorsen to help implement the Cougars' new attack.

QUARTERBACKS It was assumed that Case Keenum, C-USA's Freshman of the Year after rolling up 2,259 passing yards and 14 touchdowns, would be the front-runner this season, but that may not be decided just yet. Keenum has an innate football sense that allows him to make plays with his feet when the pocket collapses, as evidenced by last season's 412 rushing yards and nine TDs. Blake Joseph, who has been working extensively with Holgorsen to improve his footwork and touch, looked sensational in the spring, quite different from the guy who last year struggled with his reads and couldn't escape the rush.

RUNNING BACKS Replacing superstar Anthony Alridge (1,597 yards, 19 total TDs), is going to be difficult, but look for sophomore Andre Kohn to get a chance. Kohn spent part of last season recovering from a knee injury but showed flashes in the few touches he got. While not possessing Alridge's speed, Kohn is more of a polished product and has enough wiggle to his game to make him an effective threat. The Cougars also return Terrance Ganaway, a bullish back who can get the tough yards. Justin Johnson, a former quarterback, emerged in the spring, showing promise as a runner and receiver.

63

The returning wideouts combined to catch 63 passes last year. And Mark Hafner, who is making the move from tight end to big slot, had 40 of those. The departed Donnie Avery had 91 catches last year.

RECEIVERS The next big problem for Sumlin and his staff is replacing Donnie Avery, another 4.2 burner, and Jeron Harvey. That duo combined for 146 catches, 2,129 yards and 10 TDs last season. Other than Mark Hafner, who is moving to big slot after catching 40 passes as a tight end last season, the returnees with the highest number of receptions are L.J. Castile and Chris Gilbert, both of whom caught seven balls. The field is wide-open, with big targets like 6'3" Castile, 6'6" Wesley Scourten and 6'4" JoJo Florence, as well as smaller speedsters like Gilbert, Patrick Edwards and Tyron Carrier.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN The line should be one of the team's strengths. Already solid with returnees like center Carl Barnett, left tackle Sebastian Vollmer and left guard Michael Bloesch, the line will be bolstered with the return of SirVincent Rogers, who missed almost two full seasons with a knee injury. Rogers will play right tackle, with redshirt freshman Chris Thompson next to him at guard. Developing depth will be one mission, with Matt Hart (6'6", 305) and Josh Bell (6'6", 300) bringing needed size.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Cougars, who will go with a 4-3 set this year under coordinator John Skladany, return two of C-USA's best in seniors Phillip Hunt and Ell Ash. Hunt, one of the most mobile defensive ends in the league, should have a monster season after rolling up 10.5 sacks a year ago. Ash, a huge (6'5", 293) tackle who may move to end, needs only to work on his intensity. Everyone has been waiting for talented but enigmatic Cody Pree, now a senior, to arrive, so maybe this will be the year.

LINEBACKERS Sumlin is beating the bushes, looking for speed. Cody Lubojasky returns in the middle, and while Matt Nicholson and C.J. Cavness can bring the hits, they don't possess the speed Sumlin covets. Arkansas transfer Tyrell Graham has the physical tools, with a well-chiseled 6'3", 225-pound frame, but there are questions about his motor.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Cougars have a ton of safeties, but precious few corners. Seniors Ernest Miller and Kenneth Fontenette are able to cover and deliver crushing hits, and Oklahoma State transfer Stephen James excelled in the spring. But after Quinte Williams and Brandon Brinkley, the corner position isn't exactly well-stocked.

SPECIALISTS Special teams were an afterthought under Briles. Sumlin stripped everything down to the absolute basics in the spring and rebuilt from scratch. The potential is there with the return of punter Chase Turner and field goal kicker Ben Bell. Finding a returner is paramount, with freshman Patrick Edwards heading the list.



PHILLIP HUNT

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Southern	W
S. 6	at Oklahoma State	L
S. 13	Air Force	W
S. 20	at Colorado State	W
S. 27	at East Carolina	*
O. 11	UAB	W
O. 18	at SMU	W
O. 28	at Marshall	W
N. 8	Tulane	W
N. 15	Tulsa	*
N. 22	UTEP	W
N. 29	at Rice	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

NATIONAL
FORECAST

52

COUGARS



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

2

Houston Cougars
NOT SNOW



2008 HOUSTON ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

5 Dorsey, Trammie	6-3/200	Sr.
17 Elrod, Austin	6-1/185	Fr.
12 Hill, Bryan	6-0/185	Fr.
15 Joseph, Blake	6-2/215	Jr.
7 Keenum, Case	6-1/205	So

RUNNING BACKS

23 Davis, Jovan	6-2/210	Fr.
38 Ebner, Jake	6-2/270	Sr.
20 Ganaway, Terrance	6-0/199	So
42 Harrison, Jessie	5-10/215	So
3 Johnson, Justin	6-1/208	Fr.
6 Kohn, Andre	5-11/200	So.
28 Oliver, Zach	6-0/235	So.
36 Richard, Brandon	5-10/230	So

RECEIVERS

35 Carrier, Tyron	5-9/170	Fr.
10 Castile, L.J.	6-3/205	So
83 Edwards, Patrick	5-10/166	Fr.
84 Florence, Joseph	6-4/200	Fr.
8 Gilbert, Chris	5-9/175	Jr.
87 Hafner, Mark	6-3/230	Sr.
24 Monroe, Tim	6-2/185	Jr.
21 Orr, Thomas	6-2/180	Sr.
34 Patton, Blake	6-0/190	Fr.
19 Reasno, Anthony	5-11/193	So
82 Rodriguez, Chaz	6-2/184	So
18 Scourten, Wesley	6-6/225	So
43 Smelek, Brian	6-3/201	Jr
88 Smith, E.J.	6-1/185	Fr.
9 Woods, Demetrius	6-0/170	Fr.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

75 Agson, Isaiah	6-3/320	Sr.
60 Anderson, Jaryd	6-4/265	So
57 Barnett, Carl	6-3/285	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-3/200	Sr.
6-1/185	Fr.
6-0/185	Fr.
6-2/215	Jr.
6-1/205	So

HT/WT CL

6-2/210	Fr.
6-2/270	Sr.
6-0/199	So
5-10/215	So
6-1/208	Fr.
5-11/200	So.
6-0/235	So.
5-10/230	So

HT/WT CL

5-9/170	Fr.
6-3/205	So
5-10/166	Fr.
6-4/200	Fr.
5-9/175	Jr.
6-3/230	Sr.
6-2/185	Jr.
6-2/180	Sr.
6-0/190	Fr.
5-11/193	So
6-2/184	So
6-6/225	So
6-3/201	Jr
6-1/185	Fr.
6-0/170	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-3/320	Sr.
6-4/265	So
6-3/285	Jr.

HOMETOWN

Houston, TX
Ovalla, TX
Smithson Valley, TX
Bryan, TX
Abilene, TX

HOMETOWN

Plano, TX
Friendswood, TX
DeKalb, TX
Omaha, TX
Richardson, TX
Jacksonville, FL
Winnie, TX
Houston, TX

HOMETOWN

Houston, TX
LaMarque, TX
Hearne, TX
LaMarque, TX
Dallas, TX
Waller, TX
Mount Vernon, TX
Chicago, IL
Baytown, TX
Midland, TX
San Antonio, TX
Richardson, TX
Tomball, TX
Camden, MS
Houston, TX

HOMETOWN

Houston, TX
Anchorage, AK
Dickinson, TX

71 Bell, Josh	6-6/300	Jr.
64 Bloesch, Michael	6-2/295	Sr.
72 Buycks, Robert	6-3/291	Jr.
65 Freeman, Justin	6-3/259	Fr.
79 Hart, Matt	6-6/305	Jr.
76 Mullen, Chad	6-6/270	Fr.
74 Rogers, SirVincent	6-4/315	Sr.
68 Sanchez, Michael	6-2/248	Fr.
44 Shoemaker, Jordan	6-3/275	So
70 Thompson, Chris	6-3/270	Fr.
59 Vollmer, Sebastian	6-8/290	Sr.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

48 Alake, Raymond	6-4/265	So
90 Ash, Eli	6-5/293	Sr.
94 Barbandi, Mamood	6-2/245	Jr.
95 Foster, Charles	6-0/298	Fr.
92 Hartford, Billy	6-2/260	Sr.
53 Hunt, Phillip	6-2/250	Sr.
72 Lattier, Demarcus	6-2/285	Fr.
58 Martel, Jasmine	6-1/285	Jr.
56 Pree, Cody	6-3/290	Sr.
99 Ray, Michael	6-2/236	Fr.
96 Roulette, Anthony	6-3/260	Jr.
91 Stewart, Tate	6-3/285	Sr.
97 Thompson, Isaiah	6-4/305	So
93 West, Brian	6-4/265	Jr.

LINEBACKERS

50 Balias, Chris	6-0/195	So
24 Tim Monroe (Jr.)	6-0/220	Jr.
40 C.J. Cavness (Jr.)	6-3/225	Jr.
43 Graham, Tyrell	6-3/230	Sr.
34 Lubojasky, Cody	6-0/220	So.
45 Maxwell, Britton	6-0/225	Fr.
47 McIntyre, John	5-11/185	Jr.
14 Mercer, Tim	6-0/215	Jr.
42 Mitchell, Chris		

Hitchcock, TX
Spring, TX
Long Beach, CA
Cuero, TX
Huffman, TX
Scurry, TX
Jasper, TX
Sharyland, TX
Midlothian, TX
Hitchcock, TX
Kaart, Germany

HOMETOWN

Arlington, TX
Willingboro, NJ
Houston, TX
Cameron, TX
Houston, TX
Fort Worth, TX
Garland, TX
Garland, TX
Katy, TX
Tatum, TX
Beaumont, TX

HOMETOWN

Sugar Land, TX
Santa Fe, TX
Houston, TX
Sugar Land, TX
Brownwood, TX
Bryan, TX
Spring, TX
Houston, TX

30 Nicholson, Matt	6-3/230	Jr.
7 Pilot, Chris	6-1/230	Sr.
4 Rideau, Rodney	6-1/230	Sr.
36 Rudd, J.T.	6-2/220	So.
33 Williams, Shomari	6-2/245	Jr.
49 Woods, Marc	5-10/192	Fr.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

29 Bates, Ricardo	5-11/170	Fr.
15 Bean, Broderic	6-1/215	Jr.
23 Blackmon, Carson	5-11/180	Jr.
21 Brinkley, Brandon	6-0/175	Jr.
13 Edwards, A.J.	6-1/178	Fr.
28 Fontenette, Kenneth	6-0/180	Sr.
39 Haynes, Roisean	5-11/170	Fr.
16 Inyang, Mighty	5-10/175	Sr.
37 Izquierdo, Johan	6-1/180	Fr.
31 James, Ryan	5-11/180	Sr.
27 James, Stephen	5-10/205	Sr.
38 Johnson, B.K.	6-0/170	Fr.
35 Means, Loyce	5-10/160	So
5 Miller, Ernest	6-0/195	Sr.
26 Patton, Todd	5-11/195	Fr.
32 Robinson, Jamal	5-10/185	So
17 Tension, Ryan	5-10/10	Fr.
25 Williams, DeMario	5-9/180	Jr.
8 Williams, Quinte	5-11/170	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

14 Bell, Ben (K)	6-0/175	Jr.
83 Gibson, Jonathan (K/P)	5-9/172	Jr.
81 Juist, Norbie (LS)	6-4/240	Sr.
45 Skinner, Tommy (P)	6-4/215	So
80 Turner, Chase (P)	6-4/245	Jr.

Plano, TX
Lufkin, TX
Port Arthur, TX
Cuero, TX
Brampton, ON
Houston, TX

HT/WT CL

5-11/170	Fr.
6-1/215	Jr.
5-11/180	Jr.
6-0/175	Jr.
6-1/178	Fr.
6-0/180	Sr.
5-11/170	Fr.
5-10/175	Sr.
6-1/180	Fr.
5-11/180	Sr.
5-10/205	Sr.
6-0/170	Fr.
5-10/160	So
6-0/195	Sr.
5-11/195	Fr.
5-10/185	So
5-10/10	Fr.
5-9/180	Jr.
5-11/170	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-0/175	Jr.
5-9/172	Jr.
6-4/240	Sr.
6-4/215	So
6-4/245	Jr.

HOMETOWN
Prattville, AL
Kirbyville, TX
Tatum, TX
Bay City, TX
Brenham, TX
Pflugerville, TX
Converse, TX
Round Rock, TX
Houston, TX
Hewitt, TX
Houston, TX
Silsbee, TX
Houston, TX
Taylor, TX
Baytown, TX
Schertz, TX
Dallas, TX
Dallas, TX
Houston, TX

HOMETOWN

Stephenville, TX
Allen, TX
Houston, TX
Houston, TX
Friendswood, TX

HOMETOWN

Stephenville, TX
Allen, TX
Houston, TX
Houston, TX
Friendswood, TX

2008 SIGNEES

Jacoby Ashworth	OL	6-3	275
Bryce Beall	RB	5-11	195
Gino Collins	CB	5-11	185
Doran Guillory	DE	6-3	245
Jackie Hinton Jr.	DB	5-11	187
David Hunter	DL	6-2	270
Kris Johnston	DB	6-0	190
Anthony Lewis	LB	6-1	200
Jordan Mannisto	K/P	6-0	175
Marcus McGraw	LB	5-10	210
Nick Saenz	DB	5-11	185
Blake Sargent	OL	6-3	275
Jarvis Smith	LB	6-2	215
Isaiah Sweeney	WR	5-9	160
Kyle Thomas	DE	6-4	275
Nick Thurston	LB	6-0	245
Ari Tatum	T	6-5	240
Mohammed Usman	DE	6-1	235
Ken Van Heule	OL	6-4	265
Ronnie Williams	WR	5-11	180
Chris Wilson	RB	5-11	208

Kevin Sumlin wanted to make an immediate dent in the local recruiting scene, and he did with 12 signees from the Greater Houston area. Moving to a 4-3, Sumlin wanted to add playmakers on defense, and got key additions in defensive end Doran Guillory and linebackers Anthony Lewis and Jarvis Smith, originally a Baylor commit. But his biggest haul came in the defensive backfield, where players like Gino Collins, Kris Johnston and Nick Saenz provide the speed Sumlin is seeking.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (4)

WR 10 L.J. Castile (So.)	24 Tim Monroe (Jr.)
WR 8 Chris Gilbert (Jr.)	35 Tyron Carrier (Fr.)
WR 82 Chaz Rodriguez (So.)	83 Patrick Edwards (Fr.)
WR 87 Mark Hafner (Sr.)	18 Wesley Scourten (So.)
LT 59 Sebastian Vollmer (Sr.)	71 Josh Bell (Jr.)
LG 64 Michael Bloesch (Sr.)	75 Isaiah Agson (Sr.)
C 57 Carl Barnett (Jr.)	44 Jordan Shoemaker (So.)
RG 70 Chris Thompson (Fr.)	65 Justin Freeman (Fr.)
RT 74 SirVincent Rogers (Sr.)	79 Matt Hart (Jr.)
QB 7 Case Keenum (So.)	15 Blake Joseph (Jr.)
RB 6 Andre Kohn (So.)	20 Terrance Ganaway (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE 56 Cody Pree (Sr.)	92 Billy Hartford (Sr.)
NT 90 Eli Ash (Sr.)	48 Raymond Alake (So.)
DT 91 Tate Stewart (Sr.)	97 Isaiah Thompson (So.)
DE 53 Phillip Hunt (Sr.)	94 Mamood Barbandi (Jr.)
SLB 30 Matt Nicholson (Jr.)	40 C.J. Cavness (Jr.)
MLB 34 Cody Lubojasky (Sr.)	33 Shomari Williams (Jr.)
WLB 43 Tyrell Graham (Jr.)	45 Britton Maxwell (So.)
CB 21 Brandon Brinkley (Jr.)	35 Loyce Means (So.)
CB 8 Quinte Williams (Sr.)	13 A.J. Edwards (Fr.)
SS 5 Ernest Miller (Sr.)	27 Stephen James (Sr.)
FS 28 Kenneth Fontenette (Sr.)	29 Ricardo Bates (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 14 Ben Bell (Jr.)	KR 83 Patrick Edwards (Fr.)
P 80 Chase Turner (Jr.)	PR 83 Patrick Edwards (Fr.)

RECORD: 8-5 (6-2 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	at Oregon	L	48-27
S. 15	at Tulane	W	34-10
S. 22	Colorado State	W	38-27
S. 29	East Carolina	L	37-35
O. 6	at Alabama	L	30-24
O. 13	Rice	W	56-48
O. 20	at UAB	W	49-10
O. 27	at UTEP	W	34-31
N. 4	SMU	W	38-28
N. 10	at Tulsa	L	56-7
N. 17	Marshall	W	35-28
N. 24	Texas Southern	W	59-6
D. 28	#TCU	L	20-13
#Texas Bowl			

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Case Keenum	273	187	2,259	14	10
Blake Joseph	155	100	1,324	9	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Anthony Alridge	259	1,597	6.2	14	
Terrance Ganaway	109	550	5.0	6	
Case Keenum	103	412	4.0	9	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Donnie Avery	91	1,456	16.0	7	
Jeron Harvey	55	673	12.2	3	
Anthony Alridge	42	428	10.2	5	

Kicking: T.J. Lawrence, 13-22 FGs, 54-55 XPs, 93 points
 Tackles: Rocky Schwartz, 103; Kenneth Fontenette, 69
 Sacks: Phillip Hunt, 10.5
 Interceptions: Kenneth Fontenette, 4

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: DAVID BAILIFF **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 3-9 (1 YEAR) **CAREER RECORD:** 24-24 (4 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: TOM HERMAN **CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS:** CHUCK DRIESBACH, CRAIG NAIVAR
 HOUSTON, TEXAS RICE STADIUM (70,000)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE OWLS

The time has come for Owls coach David Bailiff to validate his reputation as a defensive guru. While serving under Gary Patterson at TCU, Bailiff helped craft defensive units that annually ranked among the best in the nation. Injuries curtailed any hope Bailiff might have harbored in establishing a solid defense in 2007, but a full offseason and a depth chart of healthy bodies give Bailiff a shot to start anew. While the defensive line remains youthful, there is ample experience at linebacker and safety. And given their familiarity with the 4-2-5 system and Bailiff, the Owls should perform better than last season, when they ranked 118th in the nation in total defense. Of course, the offense should be stout. The closing stretch of 2007 produced a flurry of yards and points, and brought to light the vast potential of a unit returning virtually every key cog. The offensive line needs only to improve marginally, and should the young receivers signed to add speed materialize, the Owls will again riddle opposing defenses. With a manageable schedule and C-USA's multiple bowl tie-ins, the Owls could conceivably make a run at their second postseason appearance in three years. However, optimal health is a must.



CHASE CLEMENT

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 29	SMU	*
S. 6	at Memphis	L
S. 13	at Vanderbilt	L
S. 20	at Texas	L
S. 27	North Texas	W
O. 4	at Tulsa	L
O. 18	Southern Miss	L
O. 25	at Tulane	W
N. 1	at UTEP	*
N. 8	Army	*
N. 22	Marshall	W
N. 29	Houston	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

NATIONAL
FORECAST

98



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

5

RICE OWLS

With his first season at Rice marred by injuries, misalignments and blown assignments, David Bailiff was elated to get through the spring with a relatively healthy group of players well-versed in his 4-2-5 defensive scheme. While the Owls remain young on defense — only five seniors are penciled in as starters — they are experienced enough that last year's misdeeds should be a thing of the past. The high-scoring, albeit methodical, offense returns nine starters. And the combination of shabby defenses throughout Conference USA plus a manageable schedule means the Owls hope to go bowling for the second time in three years.

QUARTERBACKS It took a broken right thumb and fractured right collarbone to prevent Chase Clement from posting record-shattering statistics as a sophomore in 2006. Healthy for the duration of his junior campaign, Clement broke 18 school marks in '07. He enters his senior season in complete control of the playbook and armed with the knowledge that when he performs up to snuff, the Owls are a proficient unit on offense. In junior John Thomas Shepherd, Rice has an able backup who has matured markedly from his first career start, a shaky outing at UCLA in 2006. And it's safe to assume that sophomore James Casey, the definition of a utility player, will take his share of snaps as the Owls continue to tinker and exploit his abundant talent.

RUNNING BACKS The Owls can only hope that they have strength in numbers — with as many as six tailbacks, they have plenty of options. Sophomore Justin Hill had some growing pains last season, but he returned in the spring with a stronger and speedier frame. He should get the bulk of the carries, but juniors C.J. Ugokwe and Marcus Knox could figure into the plans, as might former receiver Jeremy Goodson.

RECEIVERS The Owls' depth at receiver has been sapped by attrition over the past year, but the frontline talent remains dependable and productive. All-American Jarett Dillard enjoyed his second consecutive season with 1,000 receiving yards and 10-plus TD receptions, and with another healthy season, he'll put practically every receiving record in the Rice record book out of reach. Classmate Tommy Henderson is a reliable threat over the middle and on third downs, and junior Toren Dixon finally took advantage of his size while matching Casey for the second-most receptions on the team.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN While the interior of the line consists of three seniors, perhaps the best pure talent resides at left tackle, where sophomore Scott Mitchell caught on quickly after arriving from Canada last summer. He is gradually filling out his frame, and with rapidly improving technique should anchor the line for years to come. Guards David Berken and Jimmy Miller and center Austin Wilkinson supply experience. Right tackle remains a question mark, with junior Preston Thompson, unseated by Mitchell midway through last season, trying to fend off redshirt freshman Tyler Parish.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The Owls have much to prove on defense, and their concerns in the trenches run deep. Their rotation at tackle/noseguard features either players who relocated from offense (Chris Ptaszek, Chance Talbert, Davon Primus) or end (Victor Brooks), or players who have relatively little experience (Cameron Thompson, Todd Mohr). Sophomores Scott Solomon and Cheta Ozougwu make for an intriguing combo at end, but the lack of depth behind them is downright scary.

LINEBACKERS Given that only two linebackers are required on the field at a time, the Owls' depth here is impressive. Seniors Brian Raines and Vernon James are quick closers with plenty of snaps under their belts, while juniors Terrance Garmon and Robert Calhoun will provide frequent breathers for the vets.

DEFENSIVE BACKS All-conference free safety Andrew Sendejo is poised for a fantastic season, as is senior KAT Bencil Smith, who was lost for the season on the first defensive snap a year ago. The rest of the cast at safety is young and hungry, but the same cannot be said at cornerback, where senior Brandon King is the only unshakable hand. Sophomore and former safety Joseph Leary beat out senior Ja'Corey Shepherd at the other corner slot, but Shepherd has the wherewithal to reclaim the job he lost.

SPECIALISTS Junior kicker Clark Fangmeier missed only two kicks of note, and he redeemed himself for his errant PAT at SMU with a game-winning field goal on the final play. Mark Brundage assumes punting chores following the departure of Luke Juist.



2008 RICE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

12 Casey, James	6-4/245	So.	Azle, TX
16 Clement, Chase	6-1/208	Sr.	Alamo Heights, TX
17 Shepherd, John Thomas	6-1/192	Jr.	El Dorado, AR

RUNNING BACKS

22 Dupree, Taylor	6-1/214	So.	Mesquite, TX
18 Goodson, Jeremy	5-9/180	Jr.	Houston, TX
5 Hill, Justin	5-11/205	So.	Corinth, TX
27 Knox, Marcus	5-10/202	Jr.	Humble, TX
49 Marchbanks, Casey	6-0/210	Jr.	Austin, TX
37 Smith, Tyler	5-7/185	Fr.	Cedar Park, TX
28 Ugokwe, C.J.	5-11/213	Jr.	Plano, TX

RECEIVERS

11 Beasley, Pierre	6-3/217	So.	Houston, TX
81 Dillard, Jarrett	5-11/185	Sr.	San Antonio, TX
3 Dixon, Toren	6-2/208	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
83 Fuda, Michael	6-0/190	Fr.	Katy, TX
7 Henderson, Tommy	5-9/185	Sr.	Wichita Falls, TX
6 Randolph, Patrick	5-11/170	So.	Tuscaloosa, AL
88 Shah, Jaimin	6-0/195	Fr.	Garden Ridge, TX
80 Smiter, Corbin	6-2/210	Jr.	Southlake, TX
19 Sweeney, Ahmad	5-10/180	Jr.	Missouri City, TX
82 Welch, John	6-2/185	Jr.	Gautier, MS

TIGHT ENDS

85 Norris, Wil	6-1/225	So.	Plano, TX
84 Wardlow, Taylor	6-6/230	Jr.	Grapevine, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

62 Berken, David	6-4/295	Sr.	Lake Arthur, LA
53 Carrington, Keshawn	6-3/245	Fr.	Missouri City, TX
65 Emmert, Kody	6-6/255	Fr.	Liberty Hill, TX

HOMETOWN

66 Hicks, Jake	6-3/270	Fr.	Montgomery, TX
76 Mason, Travis	6-4/280	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
60 Miller, Jimmy	6-3/305	Sr.	Richmond, TX
56 Mitchell, Scott	6-4/270	So.	Ottawa, ON
72 Nazar, Stefan	6-5/290	Fr.	Toronto, ON
72 Nazar, Stephan	6-5/290	Fr.	Toronto, ON
54 Nimmons, Scott	6-2/260	Jr.	Houston, TX
64 Parish, Tyler	6-4/300	Fr.	Ardmore, OK
67 Thompson, Preston	6-6/290	Jr.	El Paso, TX
75 Vester, Cameron	6-3/270	So.	Haslet, TX
79 Wiebusch, Charlie	6-2/310	Jr.	McAllen, TX
73 Wilkinson, Austin	6-2/275	Sr.	The Woodlands, TX

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

90 Brooks, Victor	6-5/260	Jr.	Portland, TX
92 Lucio, Kramer	6-4/240	So.	Richardson, TX
91 Mohr, Todd	6-2/285	Sr.	Houston, TX
88 Moss, Will	6-4/265	Sr.	Bonham, TX
55 Ozougwu, Cheta	6-2/240	So.	Houston, TX
71 Primus, Davon	6-2/325	Fr.	Humble, TX
74 Ptasek, Chris	6-5/302	Sr.	Houston, TX
86 Shoppa, Will	6-3/230	So.	Fort Worth, TX
13 Solomon, Scott	6-3/250	So.	San Antonio, TX
98 Stacey, Brian	6-1/270	Fr.	Houston, TX
89 Talbert, Chance	6-6/250	Jr.	Hurst, TX
97 Thompson, Cameron	6-0/285	So.	Cedar Hill, TX
47 Williams, Aaron	6-3/218	So.	Mesquite, TX

LINEBACKERS

35 Arceneaux, Jonathan	5-0/220	So.	Tyler, TX
42 Calhoun, Robert	6-1/220	Jr.	Duncanville, TX
59 Craig, Ryan	5-10/210	Jr.	Houston, TX
34 Garmon, Terrance	6-2/220	Jr.	Tyler, TX

36 James, Vernon	6-1/220	Sr.	Houston, TX
50 Nordstrom, Matthew	5-10/195	Fr.	Spring, TX
31 Raines, Brian	6-1/222	Sr.	Missouri City, TX
45 Shuck, Tanner	5-11/215	Fr.	Jenks, OK
48 Tolbert, Brandon	5-11/195	So.	Texarkana, TX

DEFENSIVE BACKS

25 Agnew, Joseph	6-0/200	Jr.	Southlake, TX
33 Anyiam, Max	6-2/210	So.	Garland, TX
53 Bradshaw, Travis	6-1/190	Fr.	Cypress, TX
24 Douglas, Christopher	5-9/175	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
32 Garley, Willie	5-11/195	So.	Victoria, TX
8 Hotard, Brent	6-1/205	Fr.	Round Rock, TX
23 Hufsey, Dustin	5-10/185	Jr.	Weatherford, TX
44 Jones, Chris	6-1/190	So.	Arlington, TX
15 King, Brandon	5-9/182	Sr.	Moss Point, MS
4 Kitchens, Randy	6-3/195	So.	Robinson, TX
2 Leary, Joseph	5-11/180	So.	Copperas Cove, TX
30 Sendejo, Andrew	6-1/213	Jr.	Canyon Lake, TX
9 Shepherd, Ja'Corey	5-11/190	Sr.	Lufkin, TX
20 Smith, Bencil	5-11/200	Sr.	Houston, TX
29 Taylor, Carl	6-1/195	Sr.	Dallas, TX
43 Uwah, Martin	5-8/155	Fr.	Mesquite, TX

SPECIALISTS

96 Brundage, Mark (K)	6-0/170	Fr.	Centennial, CO
46 Fangmeier, Clark (K)	5-11/185	Jr.	Houston, TX
51 Long, Brandon (LS)	6-0/230	So.	Deer Park, TX
94 Yelovich, Brandon (K)	6-1/175	Fr.	Friendswood, TX

2008 SIGNEES

Eric Ball	OL	6-3	270
Jarrett Ben	DB	5-10	160
Derek Clark	WR	6-2	170
John Gioffre	DL	6-1	293
Clay Hebert	OL	6-3	290
Chris Jammer	DB	6-1	175
Ryan Lewis	QB	6-3	200
Roddy Maginot	WR	5-10	170
Kyle Martens	P/K	6-6	190
Stefan Nazar	OL	6-5	290
Michael Patterson	ATH	5-11	170
Michael Smith	DL	6-1	270
Shane Turner	RB	5-9	170
Denzel Wells	WR	5-11	180
Xavier Webb	DB	5-11	200
Jared Williams	TE/DE	6-3	230
Luke Willson	TE	6-5	240

David Bailiff longed for an influx of speed at the skill positions, and his desires were fulfilled by receivers Roddy Maginot, Derek Clark and Denzel Wells, and quick tailback Shane Turner. Bailiff also targeted cornerbacks with size and skill, with Chris Jammer and Jarret Ben fitting the bill. However, while quarterback-turned-safety Xavier Webb is a touted talent, he doesn't fill a position of need. The same can be said of Ryan Lewis, an accomplished signal-caller joining a roster with two underclassmen at his position. And considering their holes on the defensive line, it was shocking that the Owls landed only two linemen: noseguard John Gioffre and end Michael Smith. Jared Williams played tight end and defensive end at Huntsville, but another pure lineman would have helped.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (9)

WR 81 Jarrett Dillard (Sr.)	6 Patrick Randolph (So.)
WR 7 Tommy Henderson (Sr.)	11 Pierre Beasley (So.)
WR 3 Toren Dixon (Jr.)	82 John Welch (Jr.)
LT 56 Scott Mitchell (So.)	65 Kody Emmert (Fr.)
LG 60 Jimmy Miller (Sr.)	79 Charlie Wiebusch (Jr.)
C 73 Austin Wilkinson (Sr.)	75 Cameron Vester (So.)
RG 63 David Berken (Sr.)	76 Travis Mason (Jr.)
RT 64 Tyler Parish (Fr.)	67 Preston Thompson (Jr.)
TE 12 James Casey (So.)	84 Taylor Wardlow (Jr.)
QB 16 Chase Clement (Sr.)	17 John Thomas Shepherd (Jr.)
RB 5 Justin Hill (So.)	28 C.J. Ugokwe (Jr.)

DEFENSE (6)

LE 13 Scott Solomon (So.)	92 Kramer Lucio (So.)
DT 89 Chance Talbert (Jr.)	97 Cameron Thompson (So.)
NT 74 Chris Ptasek (Sr.)	91 Todd Mohr (Sr.)
RE 55 Cheta Ozougwu (So.)	47 Aaron Williams (So.)
SAM 31 Brian Raines (Sr.)	34 Terrance Garmon (Jr.)
WIL 36 Vernon James (Sr.)	42 Robert Calhoun (Jr.)
CB 15 Brandon King (Sr.)	24 Chris Douglas (Jr.)
CB 2 Joseph Leary (So.)	9 Ja'Corey Shepherd (Sr.)
KAT 20 Bencil Smith (Sr.)	44 Chris Jones (So.)
SS 32 Willie Garley (So.)	33 Max Anyiam (So.)
FS 30 Andrew Sendejo (Jr.)	8 Brent Hotard (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 46 Clark Fangmeier (Jr.)	KR 9 Ja'Corey Shepherd (Sr.)
P 96 Mark Brundage (Fr.)	PR 9 Ja'Corey Shepherd (Sr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 3-9 (3-5 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	Nicholls State	L	16-14
S. 8	at Baylor	L	42-17
S. 15	Texas Tech	L	59-24
S. 22	at Texas	L	58-14
O. 3	at Southern Miss	W	31-29
O. 13	at Houston	L	56-48
O. 20	Memphis	L	38-35
O. 27	at Marshall	L	34-21
N. 3	UTEP	W	56-48
N. 10	at SMU	W	43-42
N. 17	Tulane	L	45-31
N. 24	Tulsa	L	48-43

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Chase Clement	508	300	3,377	29	16
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Chase Clement	144	535	3.7	8	
Justin Hill	88	321	3.6	3	
C.J. Ugokwe	64	263	4.1	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jarrett Dillard	79	1,057	13.4	14	
James Casey	46	585	12.7	4	
Toren Dixon	46	448	9.7	5	
Tommy Henderson	36	348	9.7	3	

Kicking: Clark Fangmeier, 7-12 FGs, 46-47 XPs, 67 points
Tackles: Andrew Sendejo, 107; Brian Raines, 81
Sacks: Scott Solomon, 4.5
Interceptions: Andrew Sendejo, 5

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: JUNE JONES **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** FIRST SEASON **CAREER RECORD:** 76-41 (9 YEARS)

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: JUNE JONES **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** TOM MASON

DALLAS, TEXAS **GERALD J. FORD STADIUM** (32,000)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

91

MUSTANGS



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

4

SMU Mustangs

When asked if it would be fair for SMU fans to expect him to turn around the Mustangs' program as quickly as he did Hawaii's, June Jones laughed. "We'll get this thing turned around," he says. "I don't make predictions on how quickly, but we will." Seeing as how Jones set an NCAA record in his first year at Hawaii in 1999 by increasing the win total from zero to nine, he has set the bar high. Repeating that feat will be virtually impossible, but Jones is eager to see how his successful wide-open attack will translate to this once-proud program.

QUARTERBACKS The most critical position in the run-and-shoot is the quarterback, and unfortunately for Jones, two of the top candidates for the job weren't available during the spring. Justin Willis, a two-year starter, was suspended from the team for the spring semester, though Jones says it is likely Willis will return in the fall. It was the junior's second career suspension. Willis' backup, Zach Rhodes, was also suspended mid-way through spring drills, leaving Jones working with redshirt freshmen Logan Turner and Daniel Miller. Turner will be given a shot to compete in the fall, and his main competition will be from Willis and incoming freshman Bo Levi Mitchell. Mitchell committed to Jones when he was at Hawaii, then he followed the coach to Dallas. "Whoever wins the job will be given a chance to prove me right," Jones says. "Guys either get better or worse when games start. We'll see what happens."

RUNNING BACKS Jones has no such concerns at running back. DeMyron Martin "fits the mold of what we're looking for" in the one-back set, a solid blocker who can catch the ball. Martin started last season and was third on the team in rushing with 458 yards and had four rushing TDs and one receiving. Sophomore Chris Butler and senior Jessie Henderson will work their way into the rotation after good springs.

9

When June Jones was hired at Hawaii, he increased the number of wins in his first season from zero to nine for the Warriors, setting an NCAA record for the biggest one-year turnaround.

RECEIVERS The run-and-shoot uses four or five receivers on nearly every snap, and SMU enters the fall with two known quantities. Jones called Aldrick Robinson "one of the better players I've ever coached," and the burner will line up at the left outside position. In the slot next to him will be Emmanuel Sanders, a junior who led the team in receiving with 889 yards and caught nine touchdowns a year ago. On the right side, there will be competition. Josh Bryant and Zach Zimmerman are the early leaders, but incoming freshmen E.J. Drewery and B.J. Lee figure to be in the mix immediately.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN The line has not been a strong point in recent years, and it remains to be seen how the current players will perform in the new offense. Jones says all positions will be open to competition in the fall. The Mustangs welcome seven true freshmen along the line, and Jones expects three or four to play this season. One player who made an impression in spring ball was center Andrew Robiskie, who was a January enrollee out of Chagrin Falls High School.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN The new coaching staff broke down three of SMU's games from its 1-11 season, and the position the staff thought looked much better than expected from the film to the practice field was the defensive line. End Yuri Yenga had a monster spring and should have a big impact in his first year as a starter. Patrick Handy returns at defensive tackle, and noseguard Serge Elizee should also be a major contributor on a unit that has plenty of room for improvement.

LINEBACKERS Justin Smart earned All-Freshman C-USA honors at defensive end, but he was moved to middle linebacker (his high school position) and made a seamless transition. Will Bonilla, the returning starter at strong-side linebacker, pulled a hamstring and missed most of the spring. On the weak side, junior college transfer Alex Odiari is expected to come in and start at the same position he played at Oklahoma State in 2005-06.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The corners are more settled than the safeties, but the unit lacks depth. Bryan McCann returns at right corner after coming up with four picks as a sophomore. Derrius Bell held his own in the spring at the other corner. At the safety slots, competition will continue into the fall, and some true freshmen will get a look.

SPECIALISTS Thomas Morstead was a bright spot in a dismal season for SMU, leading Conference USA and ranking fourth in the nation in net punting. He will also resume his kicking duties, where he was 13-of-20 on field goals and perfect on extra points. Skill guys Sanders and Henderson are slated to return punts and kicks again.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MUSTANGS

SMU went from one offensive extreme to another when it pursued Navy's Paul Johnson, who favors the triple option, and then Hawaii's June Jones. The Mustangs landed Jones (Johnson went to Georgia Tech), and now the master of the run-and-shoot will try to build up a program on the mainland after lifting Hawaii to unthinkable heights as a Sugar Bowl participant. Jones doesn't appear to have much to work with right off the bat in Dallas, which is not a surprise for a team that was 1-11 last season and hasn't had a winning record since 1997. The quarterback situation is muddled, though there appears to be some talent at the skill positions. If one of the passers manages to master the offense, SMU could put some serious points up in the latter half of the year. The problem is, the defense needs a major overhaul. SMU was No. 117 in points allowed and No. 116 in total defense last year. There are some reinforcements coming in, but it will be a surprise if SMU is able to keep opponents from piling up yards and points again this year. SMU lost three overtime games last year, so with a little more luck, there should be more wins to come this year. It will take a few years, however, before the hope for winning seasons generated by the high-profile hiring of Jones becomes a reality.



JUSTIN WILLIS

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 29	at Rice	*
S. 6	Texas State	W
S. 13	at Texas Tech	L
S. 20	TCU	L
S. 27	at Tulane	W
O. 4	at UCF	L
O. 11	Tulsa	L
O. 18	Houston	L
O. 25	at Navy	L
N. 8	Memphis	*
N. 15	at UTEP	L
N. 29	Southern Miss	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Layne Marzoch



2008 SMU ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

15 Hill, Ross	6-4/210	Fr.	Los Alamitos, CA
10 Miller, Daniel	6-0/186	Fr.	Lake Highlands, TX
12 Rhodes, Zach	6-2/204	So.	New Braunfels, TX
11 Turner, Logan	6-0/179	Fr.	Springtown, TX
16 Willis, Justin	6-1/210	Jr.	Denton, TX

RUNNING BACKS

1 Butler, Chris	5-10/210	So.	Brusly, LA
31 DeJohn, Travis	5-9/176	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
33 Goldthorpe, Ben	6-2/236	Fr.	Denton, TX
9 Henderson, Jessie	5-9/169	Sr.	Paris, TX
8 Martin, DeMyron	6-2/234	Sr.	Allen, TX
45 McKinney, Andrew	6-4/264	Sr.	Decatur, TX

RECEIVERS

30 Beckner, Jim	5-10/184	Jr.	Nashville, TN
32 Bryant, Josh	5-8/176	So.	Bellville, TX
83 Burley, Phillip	6-3/225	So.	Rosser, TX
22 Cheatham, Aaron	5-8/175	Fr.	Phoenix, AZ
34 Greenberg, Bruce	5-7/170	So.	Columbia, SC
88 Haynes, Bradley	6-3/205	Fr.	Mansfield, TX
25 Johnson, La'Cori	5-9/167	Sr.	Atlanta, TX
26 Medford, A'Darius	5-10/168	So.	Garland, TX
29 Moore, Shaun	6-1/189	So.	Lake Forest, IL
24 Robinson, Aldrick	5-10/170	So.	Waxahachie, TX
17 Sanders, Emmanuel	6-1/175	Jr.	Bellville, TX
43 Sullivan, Kyle	6-0/170	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
16 Thomas, Simeon	6-0/172	Fr.	Ukiah, CA
18 Wilkerson, Terrance	5-11/170	Fr.	DeSoto, TX
5 Zimmerman, Zach	6-1/166	Jr.	Flower Mound, TX

HT/WT CL

6-4/210	Fr.	Los Alamitos, CA
6-0/186	Fr.	Lake Highlands, TX
6-2/204	So.	New Braunfels, TX
6-0/179	Fr.	Springtown, TX
6-1/210	Jr.	Denton, TX

HT/WT CL

5-10/210	So.	Brusly, LA
5-9/176	Fr.	St. Louis, MO
6-2/236	Fr.	Denton, TX
5-9/169	Sr.	Paris, TX
6-2/234	Sr.	Allen, TX
6-4/264	Sr.	Decatur, TX

HT/WT CL

5-10/184	Jr.	Nashville, TN
5-8/176	So.	Bellville, TX
6-3/225	So.	Rosser, TX
5-8/175	Fr.	Phoenix, AZ
5-7/170	So.	Columbia, SC
6-3/205	Fr.	Mansfield, TX
5-9/167	Sr.	Atlanta, TX
5-10/168	So.	Garland, TX
6-1/189	So.	Lake Forest, IL
5-10/170	So.	Waxahachie, TX
6-1/175	Jr.	Bellville, TX
6-0/170	So.	Mission Viejo, CA
6-0/172	Fr.	Ukiah, CA
5-11/170	Fr.	DeSoto, TX
6-1/166	Jr.	Flower Mound, TX

HOMETOWN

Los Alamitos, CA
Lake Highlands, TX
New Braunfels, TX
Springtown, TX
Denton, TX

HOMETOWN

Brusly, LA
St. Louis, MO
Denton, TX
Paris, TX
Allen, TX
Decatur, TX

HOMETOWN

Nashville, TN
Bellville, TX
Rosser, TX
Phoenix, AZ
Columbia, SC
Mansfield, TX
Atlanta, TX
Garland, TX
Lake Forest, IL
Waxahachie, TX
Bellville, TX
Mission Viejo, CA
Ukiah, CA
DeSoto, TX
Flower Mound, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

70 Beachum, Kelvin	6-3/283	Fr.	Mexia, TX
79 Brooks, J.T.	6-5/305	Fr.	Arlington, TX
60 Chase, Vincent	6-5/252	Sr.	Irving, TX
51 Enright, Mitch	6-2/272	Jr.	Southlake, TX
77 LeRibeus, Josh	6-4/332	Fr.	Richardson, TX
74 Lobo, Sean	6-3/300	Sr.	Arlington, TX
82 Michelsen, Austin	6-4/236	Jr.	Arlington, TX
72 Nigh, Ross	6-5/303	Jr.	Cuero, TX
67 Poynter, Tommy	6-4/277	Sr.	Irving, TX
50 Robiskie, Andrew	6-1/284	Fr.	Chagrin Falls, OH
64 Smith, Chase	6-4/300	Jr.	Flower Mound, TX
68 Tennon, Bryce	6-3/292	Fr.	Austin, TX
71 Turner, Kelly	6-3/281	Fr.	Dallas, TX

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

58 Antaki, Nick	6-4/227	Fr.	Dallas, TX
83 Crockett, Calvin	6-2/248	So.	Grand Prairie, TX
98 Czerniak, Szymon	6-5/255	Fr.	Houston, TX
57 DeGroat, Kyle	6-0/265	So.	Dallas, TX
30 Dizer, Adrian	6-6/240	Jr.	Clarksville, TX
95 Dollens, Mickey	6-3/260	So.	Bartlesville, OK
99 Elizee, Serge	6-1/301	Sr.	Miami, FL
84 Fleming, Patrick	6-4/229	So.	Houston, TX
96 Geldert, Josh	6-3/223	So.	Dallas, TX
94 Handy, Patrick	6-2/256	Sr.	Spring, TX
49 Johnson, Jordan	6-3/255	So.	Carrollton, TX
93 Parham, Chris	6-2/286	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
97 Quick, Robert	6-6/235	Fr.	San Diego, CA
42 Sowe, Anthony	6-2/240	So.	Denton, TX
46 Thomas, Zac	6-4/250	So.	Stephenville, TX
81 Walker, Mario	6-2/225	Jr.	Marshall, TX
48 Yenga, Youri	6-2/225	So.	Eules, TX

HT/WT CL

6-3/283	Fr.	Mexia, TX
6-5/305	Fr.	Arlington, TX
6-5/252	Sr.	Irving, TX
6-2/272	Jr.	Southlake, TX
6-4/332	Fr.	Richardson, TX
6-3/300	Sr.	Arlington, TX
6-4/236	Jr.	Arlington, TX
6-5/303	Jr.	Cuero, TX
6-4/277	Sr.	Irving, TX
6-1/284	Fr.	Chagrin Falls, OH
6-4/300	Jr.	Flower Mound, TX
6-3/292	Fr.	Austin, TX
6-3/281	Fr.	Dallas, TX

HT/WT CL

6-4/227	Fr.	Dallas, TX
6-2/248	So.	Grand Prairie, TX
6-5/255	Fr.	Houston, TX
6-0/265	So.	Dallas, TX
6-6/240	Jr.	Clarksville, TX
6-3/260	So.	Bartlesville, OK
6-1/301	Sr.	Miami, FL
6-4/229	So.	Houston, TX
6-3/223	So.	Dallas, TX
6-2/256	Sr.	Spring, TX
6-3/255	So.	Carrollton, TX
6-2/286	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
6-6/235	Fr.	San Diego, CA
6-2/240	So.	Denton, TX
6-4/250	So.	Stephenville, TX
6-2/225	Jr.	Marshall, TX
6-2/225	So.	Eules, TX

HOMETOWN

Mexia, TX
Arlington, TX
Irving, TX
Southlake, TX
Richardson, TX
Arlington, TX
Arlington, TX
Cuero, TX
Irving, TX
Chagrin Falls, OH
Flower Mound, TX
Austin, TX
Dallas, TX

HOMETOWN

Dallas, TX
Grand Prairie, TX
Houston, TX
Dallas, TX
Clarksville, TX
Bartlesville, OK
Miami, FL
Houston, TX
Dallas, TX
Spring, TX
Carrollton, TX
Fort Worth, TX
San Diego, CA
Denton, TX
Stephenville, TX
Marshall, TX
Eules, TX

LINEBACKERS

54 Bon, Taylor	6-3/207	So.	Kingwood, TX
27 Bonilla, Will	5-11/225	Sr.	Corpus Christi, TX
44 Ellison, Andrew	6-2/226	Fr.	College Station, TX
52 Fleps, Pete	6-2/226	So.	Southlake, TX
53 Furtwengler, Adam	6-2/245	Sr.	Corpus Christi, TX
34 Jackson, Jason	6-0/219	So.	Little Rock, AR
29 Kennemer, Chase	6-0/215	Jr.	Arlington, TX
39 Moczygomba, Ryan	6-1/222	So.	Bulverde, TX
43 Morse, Michael	6-0/221	Fr.	Richardson, TX
55 Nwisiyenji, John	5-11/227	So.	Dallas, TX
40 Smart, Justin	6-2/240	So.	Marshall, TX

DEFENSIVE BACKS

2 Bailey, De'Von	6-2/209	So.	Lawton, OK
12 Bell, Derrius	5-10/167	So.	Dallas, TX
23 Castro, Chris	5-9/179	Fr.	Allen, TX
20 Courtney, Chase	5-10/184	So.	Alexandria, LA
35 Crosby, Tim	5-11/175	So.	Garland, TX
10 Dennis, Rock	5-10/189	Jr.	Leavenworth, KS
32 Ellis, KJ	6-2/214	Jr.	Arlington, TX
7 Haynes, David	5-9/190	Sr.	McGregor, TX
28 Hudman, Bryce	6-2/200	Jr.	Spring, TX
41 Jones, Tyler	6-1/203	So.	Emory, TX
6 McCann, Bryan	6-0/176	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
13 Shankle, DeMikel	6-0/202	Fr.	Longview, TX
33 Sloan, Seth	6-0/179	Fr.	Vian, OK

SPECIALISTS

59 Bennett, Sam (LS)	6-1/257	Jr.	Dallas, TX
4 Cunningham, Kellis (P/K)	5-11/186	Jr.	Carrollton, TX
11 Galloway, Andrew (P/H)	6-4/233	Sr.	Manhattan, KS
15 Morstead, Thomas (P/K)	6-5/233	Sr.	Pearland, TX
65 Taylor, Jackson (LS)	6-3/250	Sr.	Houston, TX

HT/WT CL

6-3/207	So.	Kingwood, TX
5-11/225	Sr.	Corpus Christi, TX
6-2/226	Fr.	College Station, TX
6-2/226	So.	Southlake, TX
6-2/245	Sr.	Corpus Christi, TX
6-0/219	So.	Little Rock, AR
6-0/215	Jr.	Arlington, TX
6-1/222	So.	Bulverde, TX
6-0/221	Fr.	Richardson, TX
5-11/227	So.	Dallas, TX
6-2/240	So.	Marshall, TX

HT/WT CL

6-2/209	So.	Lawton, OK
5-10/167	So.	Dallas, TX
5-9/179	Fr.	Allen, TX
5-10/184	So.	Alexandria, LA
5-11/175	So.	Garland, TX
5-10/189	Jr.	Leavenworth, KS
6-2/214	Jr.	Arlington, TX
5-9/190	Sr.	McGregor, TX
6-2/200	Jr.	Spring, TX
6-1/203	So.	Emory, TX
6-0/176	Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK
6-0/202	Fr.	Longview, TX
6-0/179	Fr.	Vian, OK

HT/WT CL

6-1/257	Jr.	Dallas, TX
5-11/186	Jr.	Carrollton, TX
6-4/233	Sr.	Manhattan, KS
6-5/233	Sr.	Pearland, TX
6-3/250	Sr.	Houston, TX

HOMETOWN

Kingwood, TX
Corpus Christi, TX
College Station, TX
Southlake, TX
Corpus Christi, TX
Little Rock, AR
Arlington, TX
Bulverde, TX
Richardson, TX
Dallas, TX
Marshall, TX

HOMETOWN

Lawton, OK
Dallas, TX
Allen, TX
Alexandria, LA
Garland, TX
Leavenworth, KS
Arlington, TX
McGregor, TX
Spring, TX
Emory, TX
Oklahoma City, OK
Longview, TX
Vian, OK

HOMETOWN

Dallas, TX
Carrollton, TX
Manhattan, KS
Pearland, TX
Houston, TX

2008 SIGNEES

Chris Banjo	DB	5-10	191
Cole Beasley	SL	5-9	171
Zach Boyd	OL	6-4	251
Jimmy Chase	OL	6-2	244
E.J. Drewery	WR	6-6	199
Andrew Ellison	DL	6-2	232
Josh Emshoff	OL	6-4	271
Jordan Free	OL	6-2	292
Kevin Grenier	DE	6-4	243
Evan Huahulu	DL	6-1	300
Victor Jones	LB	6-0	213
B.J. Lee	SL	5-5	160
Zach Line	LB	6-1	208
Cole Loftin	SL	6-0	174
Bryce Lunday	SL	5-8	178
Deyon McElroy	DB	6-0	182
Blake McJunkin	OL	6-2	256
Bo Levi Mitchell	QB	6-1	199
Sidney Nwangwu	OL	6-4	314
Alex Odari	LB	6-0	253
Robert Parker	DE	5-11	219
Torlan Pittman	DL	6-0	275
Keith Robinson	DB	5-8	164
Andrew Robiskie	OL	6-1	285
Braden Smith	QB	6-0	191
Ryan Smith	DB	5-11	171
Taylor Thompson	DE	6-6	237
Quincey Whittington	SL	5-8	159

As one might expect from June Jones, the immediate impact players could be at quarterback and wide receiver. Jones had his eye on quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell when he was at Hawaii and will give the Katy, Texas, native a shot at the starting spot in the fall. E.J. Drewery is a big, athletic receiver who Jones is eager to see, and Mississippi 100-meter champion B.J. Lee will give the receiving corps a deep threat.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR 17 Emmanuel Sanders (Jr.)	16 Simeon Thomas (Fr.)
WR 24 Aldrick Robinson (So.)	43 Kyle Sullivan (So.)
WR 32 Josh Bryant (So.)	E.J. Drewery (Fr.)
WR 5 Zach Zimmerman (Jr.)	B.J. Lee (Fr.)
LT 70 Kelvin Beachum (Fr.)	60 Vincent Chase (Sr.)
LG 74 Sean Lobo (Sr.)	77 Josh LeRibeus (Fr.)
C 51 Mitch Enright (Jr.)	50 Andrew Robiskie (Fr.)
RG 68 Bryce Tennon (Fr.)	71 Kelly Turner (Fr.)
RT 67 Tommy Poynter (Sr.)	79 J.T. Brooks (Fr.)
QB 16 Justin Willis (Jr.)	Bo Levi Mitchell (Fr.)
RB 8 DeMyron Martin (Sr.)	1 Chris Butler (So.)

DEFENSE (6)

DE 42 Anthony Sowe (So.)	49 Jordan Johnson (So.)
DT 94 Patrick Handy (Sr.)	93 Chris Parham (Jr.)
NG 99 Serge Elizee (Sr.)	46 Zac Thomas (So.)
DE 48 Youri Yenga (So.)	30 Adrian Dizer (Jr.)
SLB 27 Will Bonilla (Sr.)	34 Jason Jackson (So.)
MLB 40 Justin Smart (So.)	39 Ryan Moczygomba (So.)
WLB Alex Odari (Jr.)	29 Chase Kennemer (Jr.)
CB 12 Derrius Bell (So.)	35 Tim Crosby (So.)
CB 6 Bryan McCann (Jr.)	23 Chris Castro (Fr.)
SS 10 Rock Dennis (Jr.)	28 Bryce Hudman (Jr.)
FS 41 Tyler Jones (So.)	7 David Haynes (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 15 Thomas Morstead (Sr.)	KR 9 Jessie Henderson (Sr.)
P 15 Thomas Morstead (Sr.)	PR 17 Emmanuel Sanders (Jr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 1-11 (0-8 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 3	Texas Tech	L	49- 9
S. 8	North Texas	W	45-31
S. 15	at Arkansas State	L	45-28
S. 22	at TCU	L	21- 7
S. 29	UTEP	L	(ot) 48-45
O. 13	at Southern Miss	L	28- 7
O. 20	Tulane	L	(ot) 41-34
O. 27	at Tulsa	L	29-23
N. 4	at Houston	L	38-28
N. 10	Rice	L	43-42
N. 17	UCF	L	49-20
N. 24	at Memphis	L	(ot) 55-52



HEAD COACH: BOB TOLEDO **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 4-8 (1 YEAR) **CAREER RECORD:** 82-76 (14 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: DAN DODD **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** O'NEILL GILBERT
 NEW ORLEANS, LA. LOUISIANA SUPERDOME (69,703)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

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GREEN WAVE



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

6

TULANE
green-wave

The foundation for Bob Toledo's term as the Tulane football coach began with a four-win season that included an overtime loss to Army, a five-point setback at UAB and a one-point loss to Memphis. Toledo would love to have another shot at the three close losses but, in some ways, the season went much better than expected. "The preseason magazines said we wouldn't win a game, and we very easily could have won seven," Toledo says. Now it's time to see what Tulane does in its second year under Toledo and first without record-setting running back Matt Forte.

QUARTERBACKS The Tulane coaching staff hoped to exit spring practice with a starter at quarterback. At this rate, they may be lucky to determine the winner of the quarterback tussle between sophomore Kevin Moore and redshirt freshman Joe Kemp by the season-opener. Moore has the experience advantage after playing last season and is steadier than Kemp. But the coaches are intrigued by the ability, athleticism and accuracy of the 6'4", 220-pound Kemp. Chances are, both will get to play early and often and throw the ball all over the field. Junior Anthony Scelfo will also fit into the mix — and possibly be the starter — if he doesn't opt to begin his professional baseball career.

RUNNING BACKS No Forte? No problem. OK, we won't go that far. Tulane greatly misses Forte. That much is certain. But Toledo feels that if Andre Anderson, a 6'0", 207-pound junior, stays healthy then "people will be surprised how good he is." That may be true, but Anderson's career rushing numbers total 129 yards on 32 carries, and he's replacing a running back who rushed for 2,127 yards and 23 touchdowns as a senior. Redshirt freshman J.T. McDonald is the backup, and any additional depth will come from true freshmen.

26/8

The Tulane defense allowed 26 TD passes and had only eight INTs last season. The Green Wave need more big plays by the pass defense to have success.

RECEIVERS Last year the receivers spent much of their time blocking for Forte. This year, they will have a chance to showcase their ability. Jeremy Williams and Brian King are the marquee receivers in an offense that needs passing yards to be successful. Williams had a team-high 46 catches for 773 yards a year ago but was not consistent enough to please the coaching staff. Michael Batiste and Casey Robottom also should be steady contributors, and Taylor Echols is one of the team's fastest players.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Offensive coordinator Dan Dodd says the goal is to get 10 offensive linemen ready to play on Saturday, but "you're happy if you have eight." Dodd says he thinks the Green Wave will be at least eight deep with the left side of guard Michael Parenton and tackle Troy Kropog leading the way. Parenton has started 34 and Kropog 25 games at Tulane. Andrew Nierman started all 12 games last season at right guard but could be moved to center. Put all the mixing and matching that happened in the spring together, and Tulane has a chance to be good up front.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN End Reggie Scott is a good place to start up front for the Green Wave. First-year defensive coordinator O'Neill Gilbert called Scott a "terror" during spring practice, and the 6'3", 255-pound senior is poised to have his best season. Fellow defensive end Adam Kwentua was limited by a back injury during the spring but is expected to be ready this fall. Tony Bryant should do some good things at tackle, and Julian Shives-Sams is expected to start after sliding over to nosetackle.

LINEBACKERS Gilbert felt the linebacker position had a need for speed, so senior David Skehan moved up from safety. Toledo says Skehan adapted well to the change during the spring, and the move allows for better pass coverage at that position. David Kirksey will slide from the outside to the inside this year. Evan Lee, 19 starts, and James Dillard, 18, provide experience while depth may have to come from true freshmen.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Free safety Chinonso Echebelem missed spring practice due to injury, but the Green Wave coaching staff is aware of his ability. Echebelem is the leader of a secondary that needs to be good for the Green Wave to play well defensively. Cornerbacks Josh Lumar and Phillip Davis have experience, and Alex Wachu looks to be the third cornerback. The Green Wave need to find some cornerback depth and, other than Echebelem, the safeties are inexperienced.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Ross Thevenot and punter Darren deRochemont return. "I don't know if that's good or bad," jokes Toledo. Actually, on paper it's both. Experience is good. Inconsistency is not. And the kickers possess both of those attributes.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GREEN WAVE

Keeping it close won't cut it for Bob Toledo in his second season at the helm of the Tulane football program. "I hate to use the term killer instinct, but we need to develop an instinct to put people away and not just be content to be ahead in the football game," Toledo says. Is Tulane ready to do that? Take away running back Matt Forte, and Tulane returns key players at nearly every position. But Forte was the centerpiece of last year's team, so moving on without him is not easy. The offense will become more reliant on the passing game — which puts pressure on quarterbacks Kevin Moore and youngster Joe Kemp — and Andre Anderson should do a good job at running back if he stays healthy. The defense also has to perform better to make it easier on the Tulane offense. Take away the season-opener at Alabama, and the first half of the schedule helps a bit. After traveling to Tuscaloosa, Tulane plays five of the next six games at the Louisiana Superdome. The Green Wave can hope to set the tone for the final half of the season, when the schedule gets considerably more difficult.



JEREMY WILLIAMS

2008 SCHEDULE

S. 6	at Alabama	L
S. 13	East Carolina	L
S. 20	UL Monroe	*
S. 27	SMU	L
O. 4	Army	*
O. 11	at UTEP	L
O. 25	Rice	L
N. 1	at LSU	L
N. 8	at Houston	L
N. 15	UAB	*
N. 22	at Tulsa	L
N. 29	at Memphis	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Ric Fogel



2008 TULANE ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

4 Elliott, Scott	6-2/219	Sr.	Bay City, TX
7 Kemp, Joe	6-4/220	Fr.	N. Richland Hills, TX
2 Moore, Kevin	6-4/232	So.	Highland Village, TX
9 Scelfo, Anthony	5-10/189	Jr.	New Orleans, LA

RUNNING BACKS

5 Agers, Andre	5-9/180	Fr.	Dallas, TX
32 Anderson, André	6-0/207	Jr.	Stone Mountain, GA
36 Blackwelder, Cody	6-2/225	So.	Ruston, LA
30 Capone, Stephen	6-0/220	Fr.	Indian Trail, NC
22 McDonald, J.T.	5-9/222	Fr.	Flower Mound, TX
49 McKinney, Jeremy	6-0/235	Jr.	Houston, TX
35 Stephany, Jordan	6-0/240	So.	Luling, LA

RECEIVERS

15 Batiste, Michael	6-3/190	Sr.	Breaux Bridge, LA
86 Davis, Chandler	6-2/172	Fr.	Gulf Shores, AL
3 Dunn, Chris	6-2/213	Jr.	Arlington, TX
81 Echols, Taylor	6-2/175	Fr.	League City, TX
85 Gaspard, Charles	6-1/175	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
83 King, Brian	6-1/185	Sr.	Slidell, LA
87 Mitchell, Alan	6-3/160	So.	Atlanta, GA
19 Robottom, Casey	5-11/183	So.	LaPlace, LA
20 Williams, Jeremy	6-1/203	Jr.	Baytown, TX

TIGHT ENDS

89 Duplessis, Antoine	6-3/265	Fr.	Violet, LA
88 Helm, Tyler	6-4/238	So.	Covington, LA
80 Kessler, Justin	6-4/260	Sr.	Alvarado, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

57 Assell, Ian	6-1/290	Fr.	New York, NY
58 Hendrickson, Pete	6-7/285	So.	Tampa, FL
64 Higgins, Andrew	6-3/285	Fr.	Duluth, GA
73 Krause, Duke	6-6/335	Fr.	Harahan, LA
77 Kropog, Troy	6-6/290	Sr.	Metairie, LA
76 Landa, John	6-3/325	Jr.	Houston, TX
78 Landry, Nick	6-7/295	Jr.	Beaumont, TX
63 Leary, Kevin	6-2/300	So.	West Chester, PA
68 Nierman, Andrew	6-1/300	So.	Harvey, LA
70 Olexa, Travis	6-4/286	Jr.	Houston, TX
65 Parenton, Michael	6-2/292	Sr.	Thibodaux, LA
62 Ponce de Leon, Oscar	6-3/311	So.	River Ridge, LA
66 Ray, Joey	6-3/317	Fr.	Spring, TX
75 Rice, Tyler	6-5/296	Jr.	Bradenton, FL
59 Thomas, Dhamari	6-2/300	Fr.	Houston, TX

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

95 Adams, Justin	5-11/255	So.	Missouri City, TX
96 Bryant, Tony	6-3/256	So.	Atlanta, GA
91 Cunningham, Brooks	6-2/230	Fr.	Norcross, GA
93 Kelley, Logan	6-2/245	Jr.	Houston, TX
90 Kwentua, Adam	6-3/249	Jr.	Baton Rouge, LA
92 Scott, Reggie	6-3/255	Sr.	Charlotte, NC
97 Shives-Sams, Julian	6-3/280	Sr.	Slidell, LA
48 Smith, Josh	6-2/255	Fr.	Thomaston, GA
98 Wilson, Cedric	6-2/260	Fr.	Sugar Land, TX
52 Wilson, Troy	6-2/240	Jr.	Gloucester, VA

LINEBACKERS

6 Burks, Travis	6-0/206	Jr.	Ellenwood, GA
37 CoBell, Logan	5-10/220	Fr.	Chesapeake, VA
10 Dillard, James	6-1/230	So.	Pembroke Pines, FL
44 Ellis, Jordan	6-1/223	Sr.	Pass Christian, MS
55 Kirksey, David	6-1/225	Jr.	Mobile, AL
34 Lee, Evan	6-1/230	Sr.	Miami, FL
53 McMurchy, James	6-1/226	Jr.	Houston, TX
46 Podet, Adam	5-10/212	Fr.	Houston, TX
33 Skehan, David	6-0/205	Sr.	Bronx, NY
41 Sparks, Cody	6-4/235	Jr.	Bridge City, TX

DEFENSIVE BACKS

23 Dade, Dominique	5-9/190	Fr.	Monroe, LA
13 Davis, Phillip	5-10/160	So.	Suwanee, GA
24 Echebelem, Chinonso	6-1/208	Jr.	Duncanville, TX
1 Harding, Matt	5-10/180	Jr.	South Garland, TX
21 Harris, Charles	6-2/175	Sr.	Irving, TX
31 Holland, Devin	6-0/196	So.	Baton Rouge, LA
12 Lumar, Josh	5-10/176	Sr.	Edgard, LA
45 Simmons, Lamont	6-2/203	Fr.	New Orleans, LA
38 Sonnier, Cory	5-10/195	Jr.	Friendswood, TX
8 Wacha, Alex	6-0/183	So.	Sugar Land, TX

SPECIALISTS

40 deRochemont, Darren (K/P)	5-8/185	So.	Riverview, FL
69 Gelhardt, Craig (LS)	6-3/250	Sr.	Tallahassee, FL
47 Thevenot, Ross (K)	6-0/180	Jr.	Lake Charles, LA
16 Villar, Drew (P/K)	6-0/180	Fr.	Gonzales, LA

2008 SIGNEES

David Allen	LB	6-2	200
Emmanuel Aluko	DL	6-3	280
Chris Asumnu	DL	6-1	271
Nathan Austin	RB	6-1	206
Rich Bell	DL	6-1	270
Casey Blum	DL	6-3	245
Darryl Farley	LB	5-11	228
Ryan Griffin	QB	6-4	211
Ian Harson	DB	5-11	175
Harris Howard	OL	6-4	288
Eric Jones	OL	6-6	290
Alex Lauricella	DB	6-0	180
Sule Osagiede	LB	6-0	190
D.J. Ponder	QB	6-2	185
Kristofar Rhymes	DB	6-0	200
Kasey Stelly	FB	6-1	231
Kadeem Taylor	DL	6-4	235
Rafael Vazquez	OL	6-5	321
Troy Wainwright	TE	6-3	230
Albert Williams	RB	5-11	190

Bob Toledo said from the day he took the job at Tulane that he wanted to recruit more Louisiana kids than previous Tulane coaching staffs. With that being said, bringing in only seven players from Louisiana was a bit of a disappointment. But the Green Wave did sign players from seven different states, and they found help at nearly every position. The Green Wave signed five defensive linemen, and at least a couple of them will have an opportunity to provide some depth this season. Running backs Nathan Austin and Albert Williams also have a chance to earn some immediate playing time. Toledo also returned to his old home in California to land quarterback Ryan Griffin, defensive lineman Casey Blum and linebacker David Allen.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR 83 Brian King (Sr.)	15 Michael Batiste (Sr.)
WR 20 Jeremy Williams (Jr.)	19 Casey Robottom (So.)
LT 77 Troy Kropog (Sr.)	70 Travis Olexa (Jr.)
LG 65 Michael Parenton (Sr.)	62 Oscar Ponce de Leon (So.)
C 68 Andrew Nierman (So.)	66 Joey Ray (Fr.)
RG 75 Tyler Rice (Jr.)	76 John Landa (Jr.)
RT 78 Nick Landry (Jr.)	58 Pete Hendrickson (So.)
TE 80 Justin Kessler (Sr.)	88 Tyler Helm (So.)
QB 2 Kevin Moore (So.)	7 Joe Kemp (Fr.)
FB 35 Jordan Stephany (So.)	36 Cody Blackwelder (So.)
RB 32 Andre Anderson (Jr.)	22 J.T. McDonald (Fr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE 92 Reggie Scott (Sr.)	52 Troy Wilson (Jr.)
DT 96 Tony Bryant (So.)	98 Cedric Wilson (Fr.)
DT 97 Julian Shives-Sams (Sr.)	95 Justin Adams (So.)
DE 90 Adam Kwentua (Jr.)	93 Logan Kelley (Jr.)
SLB 33 David Skehan (Sr.)	44 Jordan Ellis (Sr.)
MLB 55 David Kirksey (Jr.)	34 Evan Lee (Sr.)
WLB 6 Travis Burks (Jr.)	10 James Dillard (Sr.)
CB 13 Phillip Davis (So.)	21 Charles Harris (Jr.)
CB 12 Josh Lumar (Sr.)	8 Alex Wacha (So.)
SS 38 Corey Sonnier (Jr.)	31 Devin Holland (So.)
FS 24 Chinonso Echebelem (Jr.)	45 Lamont Simmons (Fr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 47 Ross Thevenot (Jr.)	KR 20 Jeremy Williams (Jr.)
P 40 Darren deRochemont (So.)	PR 23 Dominique Dade (Fr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8 (3-5 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 8	Mississippi State	L	38-17
S. 15	Houston	L	34-10
S. 22	SE Louisiana	W	35-27
S. 29	LSU	L	34-9
O. 6	at Army	L	(ot) 20-17
O. 13	at UAB	L	26-21
O. 20	at SMU	W	(ot) 41-34
O. 27	Memphis	L	28-27
N. 3	Tulsa	L	49-25
N. 10	UTEP	W	34-19
N. 17	at Rice	W	45-31
N. 24	at East Carolina	L	35-12

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Anthony Scelfo	205	111	1,396	6	7
Scott Elliott	88	42	507	2	5
Kevin Moore	54	30	432	2	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Matt Forte	361	2,127	5.9	23	
Anthony Scelfo	57	171	3.0	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jeremy Williams	46	773	16.8	5	
Matt Forte	32	282	8.8	0	
Brian King	30	446	14.9	2	

Kicking: Ross Thevenot, 13-18 FGs, 34-34 XPs, 73 points
Tackles: Evan Lee, 99; Joe Goosby, 91

Sacks: Antonio Harris, 6

Interceptions: David Skehan, 4

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: TODD GRAHAM **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 10-4 (1 YEAR) **CAREER RECORD:** 17-10 (2 YEARS)
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: HERB HAND, GUS MALZAHN **CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS:** KEITH PATTERSON, PAUL RANDOLPH
 TULSA, OKLA. H.A. CHAPMAN STADIUM (35,542)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

46

GOLDEN HURRICANE



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

1

TULSA golden hurricane

Football at Tulsa these days starts and ends with offense. Under coordinator Gus Malzahn's watch, the Golden Hurricane averaged 41.1 points per game and led all of college football in yards per game (543.9) and total plays (1,126). But head coach Todd Graham — defensive coordinator during Tulsa's 2003-05 renaissance — wouldn't mind a little tackling now and again. TU ranked 108th nationally in total defense, 108th against the pass and 90th against the run. To make matters worse, Tulsa lost arguably the 2007 defense's five best players. Still, Graham is upbeat. "Our defensive line is going to be better than it's ever been," Graham says. "At corner and safety, we'll be as good as we've ever been. We're two-deep at (linebacker), but not very experienced. That comes with playing on Saturdays."

QUARTERBACKS David Johnson has 472 career passing yards. That was one game for the departed Paul Smith. The 2007 Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year, Smith led the nation with 60 total touchdowns and joined a list of seven major-college quarterbacks to top the 5,000-yard mark in a single season. Johnson backed up Smith for three years, then took the lead in a tight spring battle with sophomores Clark Harrell (younger brother of Texas Tech's Graham) and Jacob Bower.

RUNNING BACKS The entire running back corps is back — plus one. Senior Tarrion Adams is explosive and consistent, evidenced by his 1,225 yards, 5.6 per-carry average and eight touchdowns in 2007. His backup is Jamad Williams, who showed a powerful burst last year with 458 yards. Multi-faceted fullback Charles Clay ran for 304 yards and caught 69 passes for 1,024 yards and seven touchdowns. Back in the mix is sixth-year senior Courtney Tennial, a former Oklahoma transfer who had 845 yards before an Achilles' injury in '07.

14

Outgoing quarterback Paul Smith threw for 300 yards or more in an NCAA-record 14 straight games. Expected starter David Johnson has a total of 472 yards in his career.

RECEIVERS The league's top receiving group returns virtually every key contributor and adds some big-time speed. Sophomore Trae Johnson led the team with 70 receptions for 1,088 yards and 13 touchdowns. Senior Brennan Marion caught 39 passes but gained 1,244 yards — for an NCAA record 31.9-yard average — and scored 11 touchdowns. Jesse Meyer and Dion Toliver combined for 73 catches and 977 yards. Newcomers Damaris Johnson and Dee Williams will get their chances.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Last year this was a weakness, but with four starters back it's now a strength. Senior Rodrick Thomas, who played every offensive snap last season, is back to anchor the right tackle spot. Junior left guard Curt Puckett, junior center Jody Whaley and senior right guard Justin Morsey are also back from a unit that gave up just 31 sacks in 564 pass attempts. Depth could become critical. Behind the starting five are smallish squad members, walk-ons and freshmen.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN One of the three starters is back, and he's focused on getting this defense better. Senior defensive end Moton Hopkins was second-team All-C-USA last season, when he started all 14 games and made 71 tackles, including 10 for a loss, and three sacks. Hopkins has added leadership to his plate for 2008. Senior noseguard Terrel Nemons rotated there last year and was effective at drawing double-teams.

LINEBACKERS Chris Chamberlain (school record 165 tackles) and Nelson Coleman (139) both first-team All-C-USA in '07, and Alain Karatepeyan (114 tackles, 22 for a loss, 9 sacks) all graduated. Coaches hope junior Mike Bryan can fill Coleman's role inside. Sophomore Tanner Antle had a productive spring. Mid-term transfer Kaipo Sarkissian looks ready, but is behind George Clinksale for now. There seems to be good depth behind this group, but zero experience.

DEFENSIVE BACKS Another key position, another chasm to fill. Bandit safety Steve Craver is gone after collecting 87 tackles last year. Spur safety Anthony Germany is gone after amassing 14.5 tackles for a loss. Both are key positions in the 3-3-5, but this year TU will play some 3-4-4. There's a lot expected from returning corner Kenny D. Sims and free safety Charles Davis, as well as senior Roy Roberts, who's moving to bandit.

SPECIALISTS Every key special teams contributor returns, and winning the field position battle will help a new quarterback and struggling defense. Placekicker Jarod Tracy was only 7-of-12 on field goals last season but made 11-of-12 in 2006. Punter Michael Such (39.0-yard average) needs to improve. Johnson averaged 9.9 yards on punt returns, but that duty may go to a freshman.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE GOLDEN HURRICANE

Tulsa's offseason wasn't spent reveling in a school-record-tying 10 victories in 2007. Instead, the time was used to solve what went wrong in the four defeats — which included two to UCF (one in the Conference USA title game). The single most visible factor: TU committed 12 turnovers in those four losses. "It's something that we have to emphasize as an offense more," says quarterback David Johnson, a senior expected to take record-setting Paul Smith's place. Coach Todd Graham expects the offense — which led the nation in yards per game last season — to move at the same pace under Johnson as it did under Smith, who directed college football's first team with a 5,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher and three 1,000-yard receivers. Every skill position player is back except Smith. Sophomores Clark Harrell and Jacob Bower are also competing for the job. "They are all going to have better personnel than Paul had around him," Graham says. In any case, the defense will have to get better. UCF's Kevin Smith rushed for 284 yards and four TDs in the title game, and the Golden Hurricane gave up 28 TDs passing and 28 rushing. A major offseason overhaul of Chapman Stadium and an unprecedented run on in-state recruiting talent signifies a continued move in the right direction for this emerging program.



BRENNAN MARION

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	at UAB	W
S. 6	at North Texas	W
S. 20	New Mexico	W
S. 27	Central Arkansas	W
O. 4	Rice	W
O. 11	at SMU	W
O. 18	UTEP	W
O. 26	UCF	W
N. 1	at Arkansas	*
N. 15	at Houston	*
N. 22	Tulane	W
N. 29	at Marshall	W

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Larry Smith



2008 TULSA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

12 Bower, Jacob	6-3/233	So.	Meridian, ID
6 Harrell, Clark	6-4/197	So.	Ennis, TX
5 Johnson, David	6-3/217	Sr.	Portland, OR

RUNNING BACKS

25 Adams, Tarrion	6-1/200	Sr.	Moore, OK
9 Clay, Charles	6-3/222	So.	Little Rock, AR
82 Frank, Jacob	6-2/234	Sr.	Houston, TX
22 Johnson, Aaron	5-9/205	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
37 Opeseyitan, Charles	5-10/199	Fr.	Allen, TX
43 Pongonis, Victor	5-8/199	So.	Springdale, AR
20 Tennial, Courtney	5-10/238	Sr.	Glenpool, OK
23 Williams, Jamad	5-9/198	So.	Midwest City, OK

RECEIVERS

87 Borgsmiller, Jake	6-3/202	So.	Tulsa, OK
89 Ford, Chris	6-2/190	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
82 Glegghorn, Taylor	6-0/195	Fr.	Rogers, AR
80 Heinz, Corey	5-11/164	Jr.	Lone Tree, CO
83 Johnson, Trae	5-11/170	So.	Grand Prairie, TX
4 Marion, Brennan	6-1/185	Sr.	Greensburg, PA
84 Meyer, Jesse	6-4/200	Jr.	Jenks, OK
88 Norman, Andrew	6-1/195	So.	Springdale, AR
39 Pistoia, Tyler	6-0/194	So.	Long Beach, CA
88 Shelley, Slick	6-4/195	Jr.	Fort Smith, AR
15 Toliver, Dion	5-11/170	Sr.	Riverside, CA
2 Whitmore, A.J.	5-9/174	So.	Nashville, AR
89 Young, Richard	5-11/166	So.	Springfield, MO

TIGHT ENDS

41 Cawyer, Logan	6-4/254	So.	Commerce, OK
86 Collums, Jake	6-4/244	Jr.	Enid, OK
85 Dokes, Phillip	6-6/220	Fr.	Little Rock, AR
46 Sullivan, Mike	6-3/237	Jr.	Highlands Ranch, CO

HT/WT CL

CL

HOMETOWN

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

68 DeWitt, Ronnie	6-6/277	So.	Lake Travis, TX
60 Gates, Nick	6-2/270	So.	Tulsa, OK
71 Holloway, Wilson	6-6/255	Fr.	Edmond, OK
78 Holmes, Tyler	6-4/305	Fr.	Ottawa, ON
53 Morsey, Justin	6-2/296	Sr.	Sapulpa, OK
76 Puckett, Curt	6-4/308	Jr.	Coweta, OK
62 Ringle, Aaron	6-4/250	Fr.	Sand Springs, OK
74 Santos, Shawn	6-3/304	So.	Fort Worth, TX
75 Thomas, Brandon	6-5/270	Fr.	Macedonia, OH
70 Thomas, Rodrick	6-5/355	Sr.	Oklahoma City, OK
65 Whaley, Jody	6-4/311	Jr.	Comanche, OK
61 Wike, Travis	6-4/305	Jr.	Wichita, KS

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

92 Allen, Eliot	6-2/230	Jr.	Allen, TX
97 Bell, Jon	6-2/274	So.	Shreveport, LA
95 Dickerson, Ramarcus	6-2/278	Fr.	Douglassville, TX
99 Floyd, Popsie	6-1/250	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
96 Garrison, Wilson	6-3/276	Jr.	Hinton, OK
52 Godfrey, Cedric	6-2/261	Jr.	Cedar Hill, TX
93 Hopkins, Moton	6-3/270	Sr.	Converse, TX
49 McAlester, Jeph	6-3/235	Sr.	Tulsa, OK
99 Nemons, Terrel	6-3/337	Sr.	Cedar Hill, TX
80 Ray, Odrick	6-3/241	So.	Athens, TX
55 Robinson, Rashad	6-1/230	Fr.	McKinney, TX
59 Scarbrough, Tyler	6-3/268	So.	Stillwater, OK
98 Taylor, Skyler	6-0/278	Jr.	Tulsa, OK
94 Thompson, Wayne	6-0/297	Fr.	Cedar Hill, TX
97 Young, Kyle	6-6/233	Jr.	Turpin, OK

LINEBACKERS

41 Abbott, Bo	5-10/196	Fr.	Liberal, KS
40 Antle, Tanner	6-4/211	So.	Foyil, OK
34 Arnick, Cornelius	6-1/221	Fr.	Dallas, TX

HT/WT CL

CL

HOMETOWN

54 Britton, Michael	5-10/240	Fr.	Bedford, TX
43 Bryan, Mike	6-3/216	Jr.	Coweta, OK
8 Clinkscale, George	6-0/251	Jr.	Cedar Hill, TX
32 Sarkissian, Kaipo	6-1/230	Jr.	Kamehameha, HI
33 Sims, Kenny R.	6-0/220	So.	Arlington, TX

DEFENSIVE BACKS

19 Burris, Josh	5-10/190	Jr.	Garland, TX
11 Cole, Genesis	6-1/184	Fr.	Little Rock, AR
28 Cuffee, Drew	5-8/179	So.	Arlington, TX
24 Davis, Charles	5-9/170	Jr.	Fort Worth, TX
18 Destin, John	6-0/187	Jr.	Belle Glade, FL
26 Gobert, Donald	6-3/192	So.	Crockett, TX
16 Henderson, Nick	6-0/179	Sr.	Kansas City, KS
37 Lockett, James	5-11/200	Jr.	Arlington, TX
42 Manga, Ade'	6-2/210	Jr.	Winfield, KS
46 Page, Ty	6-2/226	Sr.	Lufkin, TX
38 Penelton, Jonathan	6-1/205	Sr.	Dallas, TX
10 Roberts, Roy	5-11/205	Sr.	Ardmore, OK
27 Sims, Kenny D.	5-11/201	Jr.	St. Louis, MO
5 Singleton, Reid	5-10/170	Fr.	Fort Worth, TX
25 Smith, Anthony	5-9/191	So.	Houston, TX
30 Walker, Josh	5-10/185	Jr.	Spiro, OK

SPECIALISTS

26 Hulse, Matt (K)	5-11/192	Fr.	Tulsa, OK
48 Jurado, Paul (P)	6-1/206	Sr.	Chino, CA
35 Such, Michael (P)	6-2/205	So.	Allen, TX
29 Tracy, Jarod (K)	6-0/165	Sr.	Aledo, TX
51 Warren, John (LS)	6-0/215	Sr.	Phoenix, AZ

2008 SIGNEES

Chris Adkins	RB	5-8	187
Clint Anderson	OL	6-2	253
Matt Best	OL	6-0	255
Jacob Bower	QB	6-3	233
DeAndre Brown	DB	5-11	180
Bryan Burnham	DB	6-2	185
Willie Carter	RB	6-2	200
Alan Dock	LB	5-10	210
Cory Dorris	OL	6-4	241
Kevin Fitzpatrick	K	6-2	175
John Flanders	CB	5-10	163
Jared Grigg	OL	6-4	258
Derrick Jackson	DL	6-2	285
Damaris Johnson	WR	5-8	170
Cody Lambert	DB	6-0	168
Ade' Manga	LB	6-2	220
Brian Moore	DB	6-0	184
Gabe Moyer	OL	6-2	325
Kaipo Sarkissian	LB	6-1	235
Bobby Smith	CB	5-10	172
Zach Wallace	LB	6-1	223
Maurice White	DL	6-6	240
Trent Wilkins	DB	5-11	191
Dee Williams	WR	6-2	208

Two productive positions — linebacker and defensive back — were stripped by graduation. That's why the Golden Hurricane signed four linebackers and seven defensive backs. And the learning curve will be small. Most will be expected to compete for time right away. Speed was coach Todd Graham's directive, and he got plenty of it. Graham hopes wideouts Damaris Johnson and Dee Williams and running backs Chris Adkins and Willie Carter can make a quick impact.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (6)

WR	84 Jesse Meyer (Jr.)	2 A.J. Whitmore (So.)
WR	83 Trae Johnson (So.)	15 Dion Toliver (Sr.)
WR	4 Brennan Marion (Sr.)	88 Slick Shelley (Jr.)
LT	78 Tyler Holmes (Fr.)	75 Brandon Thomas (Fr.)
LG	76 Curt Puckett (Jr.)	62 Aaron Ringle (Fr.)
C	65 Jody Whaley (Jr.)	60 Nick Gates (So.)
RG	53 Justin Morsey (Sr.)	68 Ronnie DeWitt (So.)
RT	70 Rodrick Thomas (Sr.)	61 Travis Wike (Jr.)
QB	5 David Johnson (Sr.)	6 Clark Harrell (So.)
RB	25 Tarrion Adams (Sr.)	23 Jamad Williams (So.)
FB	9 Charles Clay (So.)	20 Courtney Tennial (Sr.)

DEFENSE (5)

DE	93 Moton Hopkins (Sr.)	59 Tyler Scarbrough (So.)
NG	99 Terrel Nemons (Sr.)	96 Wilson Garrison (Jr.)
DE	80 Odrick Ray (So.)	97 Jon Bell (So.)
SLB	8 George Clinkscale (Jr.)	32 Kaipo Sarkissian (Jr.)
MLB	43 Mike Bryan (Jr.)	33 Kenny R. Sims (So.)
WLB	40 Tanner Antle (So.)	34 Cornelius Arnick (Fr.)
CB	27 Kenny D. Sims (Jr.)	16 Nick Henderson (Sr.)
CB	18 John Destin (Jr.)	30 Josh Walker (Jr.)
SPUR	42 Ade' Manga (Jr.)	37 James Lockett (Jr.)
BAN	10 Roy Roberts (Sr.)	46 Ty Page (Sr.)
FS	24 Charles Davis (Jr.)	19 Josh Burris (Jr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	29 Jarod Tracy (Sr.)	KR	10 Roy Roberts (Sr.)
P	35 Michael Such (So.)	PR	83 Trae Johnson (So.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 10-4 (6-2 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
A. 30	at UL Monroe	W	35-17
S. 15	BYU	W	55-47
S. 21	Oklahoma	L	62-21
S. 29	UAB	W	38-30
O. 6	at UTEP	L	48-47
O. 13	Marshall	W	38-31
O. 20	at UCF	L	44-23
O. 27	SMU	W	29-23
N. 3	at Tulane	W	49-25
N. 10	Houston	W	56-7
N. 17	at Army	W	49-39
N. 24	at Rice	W	48-43
D. 1	at UCF	L	44-25
J. 6	#Bowling Green	W	63-7
	#GMAC Bowl		

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Paul Smith	544	327	5,065	47	19
David Johnson	8	4	56	0	0
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tarrion Adams	219	1,225	5.6	8	
Jamad Williams	106	458	4.3	2	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Trae Johnson	70	1,088	15.5	13	
Charles Clay	69	1,024	14.8	7	
Brennan Marion	39	1,244	31.9	11	
Jesse Meyer	39	585	15.0	2	

Kicking: Jarod Tracy, 7-12 FGs, 73-76 XPs, 94 points
Tackles: Chris Chamberlain, 165; Nelson Coleman, 139
Sacks: Alain Karatepeyan, 9
Interceptions: Two players tied with 3

Returning Players in Bold



HEAD COACH: MIKE PRICE **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 25-23 (4 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 154-145 (26 YEARS)
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS: BOB CONNELLY, AARON PRICE **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** OSIA LEWIS
 EL PASO, TEXAS SUN BOWL (51,500)

NATIONAL
FORECAST

85

MINERS



C-USA WEST
PREDICTION

3

UTEP
miners

As the clock hit 0:00 in UTEP's seventh game of the 2007 season, the tale of the Miners' year was about how their young offense had exceeded all expectations. Then East Carolina's 34-yard Hail Mary prayer was answered, UTEP lost that seventh game and the five that followed, and the story of the year was a 117th-ranked defense, leading to massive changes in Mike Price's coaching staff.

Five of the nine assistants turned over, most notably at defensive coordinator, where Osia Lewis comes in from New Mexico with a 3-3-5 scheme that's new to the program.

The 4-8 record only partly reflected a season when the Miners laid a strong foundation on offense and special teams, but making a bowl for the first time since 2005 will depend on making dramatic strides with the new-look defense.

QUARTERBACKS This was the biggest question heading into last year, and if all the smaller questions had been answered as emphatically as freshman Trevor Vittatoe answered this one, the year would have gone much differently. Vittatoe was spectacular, finishing second in the nation among freshman quarterbacks with 3,101 yards to go with 25 touchdowns and seven interceptions. Now a sophomore, he appears fully recovered from offseason surgery on his non-throwing shoulder.

RUNNING BACKS Replacing Marcus Thomas' 1,166 rushing yards and 18 total touchdowns will be a challenge, but there is a list of quality candidates. Senior Terrell Jackson was the backup last year, even beating New Mexico with a 36-yard score in the opener. Sophomore Donald Buckram averaged 4.6-yards per carry in the first three games as the third back before getting injured and taking a redshirt. Jason Williams was elevated to the third team after Buckram's injury, and he could be the short-yardage option.

RECEIVERS As was the case last year, the Miners start off with one proven receiver and a bunch of potential. Last year, the potential was Jeff Moturi, who went from one catch as a freshman in '06 to touchdown catches in 10 straight games last season and first-team all-conference honors. No other wideout had more than five catches, but Price has confidence in a number of freshmen and sophomores. This group will be young, but Price's offenses rarely struggle at this position. Tight end Jamar Hunt, a much-used backup last season, lends a veteran presence.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN Along with Vittatoe, this is the strength of the team. UTEP set program records for yards and points last season and returns the entire left side of the line — center Robby Felix, guard Cameron Raschke and tackle Mike Aguayo. Sophomore right guard Rod Huntley, a 6'3", 310-pounder, is a good bet to be the team's breakout player this year. Colby Meek, an experienced backup, is the likely right tackle.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN UTEP is going from a four-lineman base defense to a three-man front, and given the revolving door at this position last year, that's probably a good thing. No lineman finished in the top eight in tackles last season and none had more than 1.5 sacks. Ja-Boy Leomiti, James Olalekan, Robert Soleyjacks, Dane O'Neill, Chris Moore, Steve Riddick and Craig Wood all started at times last season and all are back, though UTEP never really found any answers here a year ago. The new 3-3-5 scheme should help with a defensive back blitzing on almost every play.

LINEBACKERS Adam Vincent is the returning starter, and he was one of the defensive bright spots last season. Nuuese Punimata and Isaiah Carter are looking to move from effective backups to starters. Brian Wilkins is the only experienced backup.

DEFENSIVE BACKS UTEP ranked 117th in pass defense last year, but they were also 21st in interceptions, so there is playmaking ability in the secondary. This unit, however, was dealt a blow in the spring when Braxton Amy, the team's leading tackler last year, was lost for the season with a torn ACL. Cornerback Josh Ferguson is back after missing most of last season with an injury, and the other spot was split between Melvin Stephenson and Cornelius Brown. Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith's development at safety was the highlight for the defense last season, and he should be a leader this fall.

SPECIALISTS Kicker Jose Martinez made a 57-yard field goal and finished the season as one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award after drilling 17-of-20 field goals. Punter Kyle Petersen faded late in his freshman season but was strong early. UTEP was solid on coverage and return units, which should carry over this year.

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE MINERS

Is returning the bulk of a bad defense a good thing? The answer to that question should determine whether UTEP contends for a bowl bid or suffers its third consecutive losing season in Mike Price's fifth year. Almost everything but the personnel is new on defense, including the scheme (a 3-3-5 replaces the conventional 4-3), the coordinator (Osia Lewis from New Mexico replaces Tim Hundley) and two of the other three assistants, as the Miners assume there is no way to be worse than 117th out of 119 teams in the nation defensively. Even an incremental improvement from a defense that returns starters at seven positions would be good relative to the low bar set by Conference USA, as five of the conference's 12 teams finished in the bottom 13 nationally. A small step forward on that side of the ball could end up being big in the win-loss column if the offense continues to put up big numbers. With a strong line, a proven sophomore quarterback in Trevor Vittatoe, a star receiver in Jeff Moturi and one of the nation's elite kickers in Jose Martinez, UTEP is primed to improve upon the 33.6 points per game it scored last year.

504.8

The UTEP defense allowed 504.8 yards per game in 2007, ranking it 117th out of 119 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision.



TREVOR VITTATOE

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 28	at Buffalo	*
S. 6	Texas	L
S. 20	New Mexico State	W
S. 27	UCF	*
O. 4	at Southern Miss	L
O. 11	Tulane	W
O. 18	at Tulsa	L
N. 1	Rice	*
N. 8	at UL Lafayette	W
N. 15	SMU	W
N. 22	at Houston	L
N. 28	at East Carolina	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Layne Murdoch



2008 UTEP ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

11 Springer, Jeremy	6-2/215	Fr.
5 Thomas II, James	5-11/185	So.
10 Vittatoe, Trevor	6-2/215	So.
15 Wright, Kyle	6-1/195	Jr.

RUNNING BACKS

13 Buckram, Donald	5-10/190	So.
12 Clark, Sean	5-6/180	So.
8 Farrar, Michael	5-7/195	Fr.
20 Frazier, Vernon	5-7/160	Fr.
21 Jackson, Terrell	5-9/195	Sr.
24 Palmer, Daniel	5-10/205	Fr.
34 Williams, Jason	5-11/200	Jr.

RECEIVERS

2 Adams, Kris	6-2/190	So.
14 Brooks, Derek	6-2/195	Fr.
17 Carr, Russell	6-3/200	Fr.
19 Davis, Evan	6-1/190	So.
12 Day, Chris	5-9/180	Sr.
83 Freeman, Jack	5-8/155	Fr.
7 Hunter, Pierce	6-5/220	So.
84 Kemp, Donavon	6-1/175	Fr.
18 Moturi, Jeff	6-0/180	Jr.
88 Shadrawy, Tufick	6-2/190	Jr.
81 Vassell, Chris	5-10/180	So.

TIGHT ENDS

89 Amato, Geoff	6-3/250	Fr.
85 Goldtrap, Elijah	6-5/255	So.
80 Harre, Michael	6-2/255	Fr.
87 Hunt, Jamar	6-7/260	Sr.
86 Moore, Jonny	6-5/235	So.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

71 Aguayo, Mike	6-4/290	Jr.
79 Cullumber, Tanner	6-4/285	So.

HT/WT CL

6-2/215	Fr.
5-11/185	So.
6-2/215	So.
6-1/195	Jr.

HT/WT CL

5-10/190	So.
5-6/180	So.
5-7/195	Fr.
5-7/160	Fr.
5-9/195	Sr.
5-10/205	Fr.
5-11/200	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/190	So.
6-2/195	Fr.
6-3/200	Fr.
6-1/190	So.
5-9/180	Sr.
5-8/155	Fr.
6-5/220	So.
6-1/175	Fr.
6-0/180	Jr.
6-2/190	Jr.
5-10/180	So.

HT/WT CL

6-3/250	Fr.
6-5/255	So.
6-2/255	Fr.
6-7/260	Sr.
6-5/235	So.

HT/WT CL

6-4/290	Jr.
6-4/285	So.

HOMETOWN

Los Fresnos, TX
Palestine, TX
Bedford, TX
Santa Rosa, CA

HOMETOWN

Copperas Cove, TX
Austin, TX
El Paso, TX
Duncanville, TX
Moreno Valley, CA
College Station, TX
Tyler, TX

HOMETOWN

Fort Worth, TX
El Paso, TX
Chino Hills, CA
Los Angeles, CA
El Paso, TX
Houston, TX
National City, CA
DeSoto, TX
Irving, TX
Arlington, TX
Sacramento, CA

HOMETOWN

El Paso, TX
Los Angeles, CA
El Paso, TX
Mesa, AZ
San Antonio, TX

HOMETOWN

Lakewood, CA
Chandler, AZ

62 Felix, Robby	6-3/295	Sr.
72 Garcia, Daniel	6-3/315	Jr.
76 Gomez, Manny	6-2/250	Fr.
69 Henckel, Troy	6-4/295	So.
74 Huntley, Rod	6-3/310	So.
68 Jones, Marcus	6-2/325	Jr.
60 McCage, Nathan	6-4/260	Fr.
77 McMillan, Bradley	6-4/335	Fr.
65 McNac, Anthony	6-4/345	So.
64 Meek, Colby	6-4/305	Jr.
97 Ofili, Charles	6-3/300	Jr.
54 Osolinsky, Will	6-7/265	So.
78 Raschke, Cameron	6-4/315	Jr.
67 Santilan, Paul	6-4/280	Fr.
70 Solot, Alex	6-8/315	So.
66 Stout, Ty	6-5/280	Jr.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

75 Brown, L.J.	6-4/285	Jr.
57 Camilli, Matt	6-4/220	Fr.
90 Dew, Brandis	6-5/290	Jr.
32 Goodwell, Landon	6-2/260	Jr.
96 Johnson, James	6-0/230	Fr.
56 Leomiti, Ja-Boy	6-3/275	Sr.
99 Moore, Chris	6-2/285	Jr.
92 O'Neill, Dane	6-4/235	Jr.
91 Olalekan, James	6-2/270	Sr.
50 Randle, George	6-6/270	So.
95 Riddick, Steve	5-11/275	Jr.
13 Soleyjacks, Robert	6-2/250	So.
94 Wood, Craig	6-4/295	So.

LINEBACKERS

38 Carter, Isaiah	6-2/210	So.
40 Davila, Julian	5-10/240	Fr.
41 Davis, Elijah	6-1/230	Jr.
33 Guerra, Giovanni	6-0/215	So.

6-3/295	Sr.
6-3/315	Jr.
6-2/250	Fr.
6-4/295	So.
6-3/310	So.
6-2/325	Jr.
6-4/260	Fr.
6-4/335	Fr.
6-4/345	So.
6-4/305	Jr.
6-3/300	Jr.
6-7/265	So.
6-4/315	Jr.
6-4/280	Fr.
6-8/315	So.
6-5/280	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-4/285	Jr.
6-4/220	Fr.
6-5/290	Jr.
6-2/260	Jr.
6-0/230	Fr.
6-3/275	Sr.
6-2/285	Jr.
6-4/235	Jr.
6-2/270	Sr.
6-6/270	So.
5-11/275	Jr.
6-2/250	So.
6-4/295	So.

HT/WT CL

6-2/210	So.
5-10/240	Fr.
6-1/230	Jr.
6-0/215	So.

Corona, CA
El Paso, TX
El Paso, TX
El Paso, TX
Arlington, TX
Miramar, FL
Spring, TX
Houston, TX
Lancaster, TX
Keller, TX
Houston, TX
Phoenix, AZ
Kerrville, TX
Crosby, TX
Tucson, AZ
Amarillo, TX

HOMETOWN

Fort Lauderdale, FL
Las Cruces, NM
Hemet, CA
West Covina, CA
Wichita Falls, TX
Long Beach, CA
Houston, TX
Chino Hills, CA
Texas City, TX
Sugar Land, TX
El Paso, TX
Amarillo, TX
Copperas Cove, TX

HOMETOWN

Converse, TX
El Paso, TX
Seattle, WA
West Covina, CA

42 Holleman, Greg	6-1/205	Fr.
7 Punimata, Nuuese	6-1/225	Sr.
27 Reynolds, Eric	5-11/225	So.
52 Smith, Royzell	6-1/210	Fr.
5 Vincent, Adam	6-3/240	Sr.
44 Watkins, Greg	6-5/210	Fr.
17 Wilkins, Brian	6-2/235	Jr.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

25 Adame, Saul	5-10/185	So.
14 Amy, Braxton	6-0/210	Jr.
47 Brown, Cornelius	5-11/200	Jr.
31 Contreras, Austin	5-10/190	Fr.
23 Cromartie-Smith, Da'Mon	6-2/205	Jr.
3 Dariso, Chancey	5-10/180	So.
2 Ferguson, Josh	5-9/185	Sr.
30 Jordan, Jamie	6-1/200	Jr.
29 Kelly, George	5-10/185	Sr.
9 McKinney, Josh	5-8/170	So.
30 McShane, Matt	5-10/180	So.
11 Morrow, Anthony	6-0/205	So.
16 Ortiz, Jo Jo	6-1/190	So.
4 Stephenson II, Melvin	5-10/180	Jr.
34 Strange, Martel	5-11/185	So.
26 Walker, Roddray	6-1/210	Sr.

SPECIALISTS

98 Hiett, Greg (P)	6-5/210	Jr.
10 Martinez, Jose (K)	5-10/200	Sr.
15 Petersen, Kyle (P)	6-4/230	So.
39 Scott, Mike (K)	6-1/145	Fr.

6-1/205	Fr.
6-1/225	Sr.
5-11/225	So.
6-1/210	Fr.
6-3/240	Sr.
6-5/210	Fr.
6-2/235	Jr.

HT/WT CL

5-10/185	So.
6-0/210	Jr.
5-11/200	Jr.
5-10/190	Fr.
6-2/205	Jr.
5-10/180	So.
5-9/185	Sr.
6-1/200	Jr.
5-10/185	Sr.
5-8/170	So.
5-10/180	So.
6-0/205	So.
6-1/190	So.
5-10/180	Jr.
5-11/185	So.
6-1/210	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-5/210	Jr.
5-10/200	Sr.
6-4/230	So.
6-1/145	Fr.

Lubbock, TX
Pago Pago, A. Samoa
Port Arthur, TX
Missouri City, TX
Chandler, AZ
Katy, TX
Tustin, CA

HOMETOWN

El Paso, TX
Richmond, TX
Houston, TX
El Paso, TX
Riverside, CA
Oceanside, CA
Hayward, CA
El Paso, TX
Anchorage, AK
El Paso, TX
Portland, OR
Fallbrook, CA
El Paso, TX
Grand Prairie, TX
Palm Springs, CA
Schertz, TX

HOMETOWN

San Antonio, TX
San Jose, CA
Alta Loma, CA
El Paso, TX

2008 SIGNEES

Eloy Atkinson	OL	6-4	275
Darius Austin	WR	5-9	180
Logan Barrett	K	6-1	170
Deryck Beveridge	OL	6-8	330
Antwon Blake	DB	5-10	170
Tim Curry	QB	6-4	205
DeShawn Grayson	DB	6-0	190
Ramonte Harris	DB	5-11	170
Jamie Irving	LB	6-1	215
Korey Jarka	LB	6-1	205
Wiston Jeune	DB	6-4	205
Aaron King	DL	6-4	245
Josh LaBum	TE	6-3	245
Negale Miller	DB	5-11	170
Vince Misa-Amituanai	TE	6-5	245
Darrin Moore	WR	6-4	195
Bernard Obi	DE/OLB	6-3	220
Tory Robinson	DL	6-4	275
Nick Sampson	DB	6-0	185
Max Savedra	TE	6-5	255
Josh Scott	DE/OLB	6-4	210
Austin Shaffer	DL	6-4	250
Corey Trisby	ATH	6-2	190
Clarence Ward	DB	6-1	185
Corey Wright	DL	6-4	260
John Wright	DE/OLB	6-3	210

As with everything else in UTEP's offseason, the 2008 recruiting class was all about defense. Still, not surprisingly for a Mike Price team, the star of the class was quarterback Tim Curry rated the No. 62 quarterback in the country by Scout.com. Cornerbacks Antwon Blake and Ramonte Harris and defensive linemen Bernard Obi and Corey Wright are the other top prospects. They address UTEP's biggest needs.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (5)

WR 7 Pierce Hunter (So.)	88 Tufick Shadrawy (Jr.)
WR 18 Jeff Moturi (Jr.)	12 Chris Day (Sr.)
WR 2 Kris Adams (So.)	19 Evan Davis (So.)
LT 71 Mike Aguayo (Jr.)	54 Will Osolinsky (So.)
LG 78 Cameron Raschke (Jr.)	65 Anthony McNac (So.)
C 62 Robby Felix (Sr.)	60 Nathan McCage (Fr.)
RG 74 Rod Huntley (So.)	79 Tanner Cullumber (So.)
RT 64 Colby Meek (Jr.)	70 Alex Solot (So.)
TE 87 Jamar Hunt (Sr.)	86 Jonny Moore (So.)
QB 10 Trevor Vittatoe (So.)	15 Kyle Wright (Jr.)
RB 21 Terrell Jackson (Sr.)	13 Donald Buckram (So.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE 91 James Olalekan (Sr.)	99 Chris Moore (Jr.)
NT 56 Ja-Boy Leomiti (Sr.)	95 Steve Riddick (Jr.)
DE 13 Robert Soleyjacks (So.)	92 Dane O'Neill (Jr.)
LLB 7 Nuuese Punimata (Sr.)	42 Greg Holleman (Fr.)
MLB 5 Adam Vincent (Sr.)	17 Brian Wilkins (Jr.)
RLB 38 Isaiah Carter (So.)	44 Greg Watkins (Fr.)
Miner16 Jo Jo Ortiz (So.)	30 Jamie Jordan (Jr.)
CB 2 Josh Ferguson (Sr.)	34 Martel Strange (So.)
CB 4 Melvin Stephenson (Jr.)	47 Cornelius Brown (Jr.)
LS 23 D. Cromartie-Smith (Jr.)	30 Matt McShane (So.)
RS 26 Roddray Walker (Sr.)	11 Anthony Morrow (So.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K 10 Jose Martinez (Sr.)	KR 34 Jason Williams (Jr.)
P 15 Kyle Petersen (So.)	PR 18 Jeff Moturi (Jr.)

2007 RESULTS

RECORD: 4-8 (2-6 C-USA)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	New Mexico	W	10-6
S. 8	at Texas Tech	L	45-31
S. 15	at New Mexico State	L	29-24
S. 22	Texas Southern	W	52-12
S. 29	at SMU	W	(ot) 48-45
O. 6	Tulsa	W	48-47
O. 13	East Carolina	L	(ot) 45-42
O. 27	Houston	L	34-31
N. 3	at Rice	L	56-48
N. 10	at Tulane	L	34-19
N. 17	Southern Miss	L	56-30
N. 24	at UCF	L	36-20

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	TD	INT.
Trevor Vittatoe	407	224	3,101	25	7
Lorne Sam	19	12	144	2	2
RUSHING	ATT.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	
Marcus Thomas	227	1,166	5.1	16	
Lorne Sam	60	339	5.7	3	
RECEIVING	REC.	YDS.	AVG.	TD	
Jeff Moturi	65	891	13.7	13	
Lorne Sam	42	589	14.0	1	
Joe West	41	734	17.9	6	
Fred Rouse	25	379	15.2	2	

Kicking: Jose Martinez, 17-20 FGs, 44-46 XPs, 95 points
Tackles: Braxton Amy, 112; Jeremy Jones, 92



HEAD COACH: JIM LEAVITT **RECORD AT SCHOOL:** 79-47 (11 YEARS) **CAREER RECORD:** 79-47 (11 YEARS)
OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR: GREG GREGORY **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR:** WALLY BURNHAM
 TAMPA, FLA. RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM (65,857)

TWO-MINUTE DRILL

A QUICK LOOK AT THE BULLS

South Florida seemingly has the necessary elements to contend for the Big East Conference championship. But once again, its bottom line will be an intangible quality — developing consistency. The offense had its moments but made too many mistakes (Exhibit A: eight turnovers against Cincinnati). The defense matured into a ball-hawking nightmare but had trouble stopping opponents in the four losses (particularly in the Sun Bowl meltdown against Oregon). South Florida's leaders must step up. That means quarterback **Matt Grothe** must make more intelligent decisions and take fewer sacks. Last year he threw 14 touchdowns with 14 interceptions. Defensive end **George Selvie** and linebacker **Tyrone McKenzie**, already acclaimed on the national level, must raise their games. The kicking game, which could've cost the Bulls dearly, needs drastic improvement. With experience at quarterback and the skill positions, along with a solid returning corps on defense, the potential is there for South Florida to transform its season finale at West Virginia into the de facto Big East championship game. But without more consistency, the potential is also there for the Bulls to settle for a minor bowl trip.



GEORGE SELVIE

NATIONAL
FORECAST

20

BULLS



BIG EAST
PREDICTION

2

SOUTH FLORIDA
BULLS

When last season's initial Bowl Championship Series standings were released, the South Florida Bulls were No. 2. Second! Had the Bulls won out, they very well could've been playing for a national championship in New Orleans. For an 11th-year program that began at the Division I-AA level, it had to be a surreal moment. But not for Bulls coach Jim Leavitt. More than anything, it was a preview of what could be ahead. "Things will never be the same for South Florida football," he says. "We always expected to go out and win the Big East. Maybe nobody else did. Now our name is out there everywhere. We're not sneaking up on anybody. To stay at a top level for a number of years, that's what we're after now."

QUARTERBACKS Matt Grothe was one of only three quarterbacks in the FBS who rushed for at least 850 yards and passed for at least 2,500. The others were Central Michigan's Dan LeFevour and Florida's Tim Tebow, the Heisman Trophy winner. To join Tebow in the Heisman conversation, Grothe must become a better decision-maker. Nine of his 14 interceptions occurred in South Florida's four losses. Senior Grant Gregory, son of offensive coordinator Greg, had a passer rating of 165.7 in mop-up duty.

RUNNING BACKS Sophomore Mike Ford is a strong candidate to earn first-team All-Big East honors. When his 6'2", 225-pound frame turns the corner, it's an intimidating sight. Coaches want him more active in the passing game and more precise in blocking assignments. Benjamin Williams, a punishing blocker and former walk-on, is a capable runner, a much-improved receiver and the personification of a team player.

RECEIVERS There may not be All-America numbers from one player, but four or five could surpass the 35-catch mark. Taurus Johnson, an elusive and deceptively fast target, is leader, although sophomore Carlton Mitchell is the most talented player and stunned coaches with his production. Jessie Hester, son of the former NFL player, impressed with his big-play ability, while Marcus Edwards is dependable in the clutch. Senior tight end Cedric Hill is mobile enough to be a solid option as well.

42

South Florida's defense led the nation with 42 turnovers forced last season — 23 interceptions, 19 fumbles recovered.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN South Florida's unit averages 310 pounds and returns four of its five starters. The lone newcomer is sophomore right tackle Jacob Sims. The strength lies in the interior, where the guards are maulers. Ryan Schmidt, a regular since his transfer from Kansas State, has displayed a mean streak. Sophomore Zach Hermann impressed coaches by stepping directly into the lineup as a redshirt freshman. Senior center Jake Griffin finally separated himself from injury problems and became an anchor. At left tackle, versatile Marc Dile provides ample protection for Grothe's backside.



DEFENSIVE LINEMEN How the Bulls perform against larger offensive lines and power backs could be a major barometer. But the made-for-speed unit can create big-league havoc. Junior end George Selvie, a first-team All-American, is the obvious player to watch. Selvie had 14.5 sacks and matured into an NFL-ready edge rusher. Senior end Jarriett Buie must take advantage of the extra blocking attention on Selvie. Meanwhile, the interior linemen need to set a physical tone.

LINEBACKERS Senior Tyrone McKenzie, the team's leading tackler on the outside, will have a shot at replacing Ben Moffitt in the middle. The exact deployment of players may depend on the progress of junior college transfer Kion Wilson, whose early enrollment was somewhat negated by a spring practice injury. Senior Brouce Mompremier's sideline-to-sideline intensity always makes an impression. Chris Robinson, a converted end who had 6.5 sacks in 2006, will figure prominently outside.

DEFENSIVE BACKS The Bulls lost arguably the nation's best cornerback tandem in Mike Jenkins and Trae Williams, but coaches prefer to concentrate on what they return. Senior strong safety Carlton Williams' run support and dependability are among the defense's most underappreciated features. Junior free safety Nate Allen transformed from situational player to playmaker. The new starting cornerbacks, junior Jerome Murphy and senior Tyller Roberts, gained plenty of experience in reserve roles.

SPECIALISTS Delbert Alvarado handled both punting and kicking duties in 2007. However, his early season kicking struggles leave the door open for Justin Teachey and freshman Maikon Bonani should Alvarado falter. The return game is in experienced hands with kickoffs fielded by Murphy (24.5 ypr) and Edwards handling punts.

2008 SCHEDULE

A. 30	Tennessee-Martin	W
S. 6	at UCF	W
S. 12	Kansas	*
S. 20	at Florida International	W
S. 27	at NC State	W
O. 2	Pittsburgh	W
O. 18	Syracuse	W
O. 25	at Louisville	W
O. 30	at Cincinnati	W
N. 15	Rutgers	*
N. 22	Connecticut	W
D. 6	at West Virginia	L

*Games in bold represent games crucial to the season.
 W or L indicates a projected win or loss

Bruce Schwartzman



2008 SOUTH FLORIDA ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS

15	Gregory, Grant	6-1/205	Sr.
8	Grothe, Matt	6-0/213	Jr.
3	Voss, Alton	6-2/225	Fr.

RUNNING BACKS

24	Cannon, Shawn	5-11/195	Sr.
26	Carr, Mike	6-0/225	So.
39	Kelly, Richard	6-0/249	So.
37	Miller, Joel	6-0/210	Fr.
38	Padilla, Mike	6-0/222	Jr.
1	Plancher, Moise	5-9/200	Jr.
20	Samuels, Aston	5-10/176	So.
33	Taylor, Jamar	5-9/205	So.
30	Williams, Benjamin	5-7/200	Sr.

RECEIVERS

6	Alcin, Edner	6-2/185	So.
81	Bogan, Dontavia	6-1/180	So.
14	Cozzo, David	5-10/160	So.
11	Edwards, Marcus	5-11/164	Sr.
29	Erskin, Colby	5-9/185	Jr.
23	Hamrick, Rhett	6-5/190	Fr.
19	Hanks, Antwon	6-3/200	Jr.
87	Hester Jr., Jessie	6-0/174	Jr.
89	Johnson, Taurus	6-1/204	Sr.
5	Love, A.J.	6-2/196	So.
2	Mitchell, Carlton	6-4/210	So.
81	Richardson, Patrick	6-0/163	Fr.
1	Sherman, Jason	6-4/197	So.
83	Wilson, Jeffrey	6-0/165	Fr.

TIGHT ENDS

82	Busbee, Ben	6-3/242	Jr.
9	Hill, Cedric	6-3/230	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-1/205	Sr.
6-0/213	Jr.
6-2/225	Fr.

HT/WT CL

5-11/195	Sr.
6-0/225	So.
6-0/249	So.
6-0/210	Fr.
6-0/222	Jr.
5-9/200	Jr.
5-10/176	So.
5-9/205	So.
5-7/200	Sr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/185	So.
6-1/180	So.
5-10/160	So.
5-11/164	Sr.
5-9/185	Jr.
6-5/190	Fr.
6-3/200	Jr.
6-0/174	Jr.
6-1/204	Sr.
6-2/196	So.
6-4/210	So.
6-0/163	Fr.
6-4/197	So.
6-0/165	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-3/242	Jr.
6-3/230	Sr.

HOMETOWN

Athens, OH
Lakeland, FL
Holiday, FL

HOMETOWN

Pensacola, FL
Sarasota, FL
Bushnell, FL
Tampa, FL
Cape Coral, FL
Naples, FL
Belle Glade, FL
Lakeland, FL
Lake Wales, FL

HOMETOWN

Tampa, FL
Thomasville, GA
Miami, FL
Mayo, FL
Seminole, FL
Altamonte Springs, FL
Lake Weir, FL
Belle Glade, FL
Cape Coral, FL
Bradenton, FL
Lutz, FL
Pensacola, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Miramar, FL

HOMETOWN

Mobile, AL
Valdosta, FL

85 Ketchel, Andrew

6-5/240	So.
6-4/251	Jr.
6-6/255	So.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

78	Dile, Marc	6-4/309	Sr.
74	Edenfield, Thomas	6-6/297	Fr.
77	Griffin, Jake	6-4/307	Sr.
61	Hermann, Zach	6-3/313	So.
72	Herzhauser, Joe	6-4/263	So.
79	Hine, Chaz	6-4/289	Fr.
71	Huners, Matt	6-3/305	Sr.
66	McCaskill, Kevin	6-2/300	Fr.
70	McGowan, Mike	6-5/327	Sr.
65	Schmidt, Ryan	6-5/290	So.
64	Sims, Jacob	6-6/302	Jr.
73	Tolley, Danny	6-4/326	Fr.
55	Warren, Jeremiah	6-4/326	Fr.

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

93	Aycox, Matt	6-2/240	Jr.
90	Buie, Jarriett	6-4/255	Sr.
48	Delisca, Rony	6-2/220	Fr.
99	Fonua, David	6-2/255	Fr.
41	Fox, Jason	6-0/259	Jr.
62	Genus, Sampson	6-1/308	So.
41	Hampton, Patrick	6-3/225	Fr.
98	Harris, Aaron	6-4/275	Jr.
54	Luberice, Kenneth	6-0/231	Fr.
51	McCaskill, Keith	5-11/255	Fr.
97	McClain, Terrell	6-3/306	So.
92	Powe, Darren	6-3/244	Fr.
44	Pupello, Trent	6-2/276	So.
95	Selvie, George	6-4/242	Jr.

6-5/240 So.

6-4/251	Jr.
6-6/255	So.

HT/WT CL

6-4/309	Sr.
6-6/297	Fr.
6-4/307	Sr.
6-3/313	So.
6-4/263	So.
6-4/289	Fr.
6-3/305	Sr.
6-2/300	Fr.
6-5/327	Sr.
6-5/290	So.
6-6/302	Jr.
6-4/326	Fr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/240	Jr.
6-4/255	Sr.
6-2/220	Fr.
6-2/255	Fr.
6-0/259	Jr.
6-1/308	So.
6-3/225	Fr.
6-4/275	Jr.
6-0/231	Fr.
5-11/255	Fr.
6-3/306	So.
6-3/244	Fr.
6-2/276	So.
6-4/242	Jr.

Shalimar, FL

Palm Beach, FL
W. Palm Beach, FL

HOMETOWN

Miami, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Seffner, FL
Oldsmar, FL
St. Petersburg, FL
Lithia, FL
Palm Harbor, FL
Tallahassee, FL
Boca Raton, FL
Boca Raton, FL
Winter Park, FL
Wesley Chapel, FL
Panama City, FL

HOMETOWN

Gainesville, FL
Tampa, FL
Tampa, FL
Bradenton, FL
Valrico, FL
Lake City, FL
Lithonia, GA
Williston, FL
Baco Raon, FL
Tallahassee, FL
Pensacola, FL
Mayo, FL
Tampa, FL
Pensacola, FL

LINEBACKERS

52	Darr, Lucas	5-10/202	So.
40	Hess, Houston	6-3/210	Jr.
43	Joseph, Sabbath	6-0/230	So.
27	McKenzie, Tyrone	6-2/235	Sr.
57	McQueen, Alonzo	6-1/255	So.
53	Mompremier, Brouce	6-1/227	Sr.
49	Robinson, Chris	6-3/240	Jr.
42	Wilson, Kion	6-2/235	Jr.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

5	Allen, Nate	6-2/200	Jr.
13	Butler, Tyson	5-11/170	Fr.
24	Douglas, Dylan	5-10/182	So.
7	Gachette, Louis	6-3/215	Sr.
12	Morgan, Micah	5-10/175	Sr.
3	Murphy, Jerome	6-1/176	Jr.
35	Perkins, Cameron	5-10/180	Sr.
6	Roberts, Tyllor	6-1/185	Sr.
31	Sinclair, Charlton	5-11/190	Fr.
17	Verpaele, Danny	5-11/200	Fr.
16	Washington, Quenton	5-10/172	Fr.
32	Williams, Carlton	6-4/214	Sr.
14	Young, Jerrell	6-2/210	Jr.

SPECIALISTS

25	Alvarado, Delbert (K)	6-0/196	Jr.
58	Dudding, Darryl (LS)	6-2/261	Jr.
36	Petrov, Ilija (P)	5-11/192	Jr.
67	Setser, Eric (LS)	6-1/240	Sr.
27	Teachey, Justin (K)	5-11/176	Sr.
68	Walsh, Michael (LS)	5-10/220	Fr.

HT/WT CL

5-10/202	So.
6-3/210	Jr.
6-0/230	So.
6-2/235	Sr.
6-1/255	So.
6-1/227	Sr.
6-3/240	Jr.
6-2/235	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-2/200	Jr.
5-11/170	Fr.
5-10/182	So.
6-3/215	Sr.
5-10/175	Sr.
6-1/176	Jr.
5-10/180	Sr.
6-1/185	Sr.
5-11/190	Fr.
5-11/200	Fr.
5-10/172	Fr.
6-4/214	Sr.
6-2/210	Jr.

HT/WT CL

6-0/196	Jr.
6-2/261	Jr.
5-11/192	Jr.
6-1/240	Sr.
5-11/176	Sr.
5-10/220	Fr.

HOMETOWN

Clearwater, FL
Oswego, IL
Miami, FL
Riverview, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Miami, FL
Bunnell, FL
Jacksonville, FL

HOMETOWN

Cape Coral, FL
Ft. Myers, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Immokalee, FL
Tallahassee, FL
Elizabeth, NJ
Pensacola, FL
Orlando, FL
Jacksonville, FL
Merritt Island, FL
Fort Myers, FL
Valdosta, GA
St. Petersburg, FL

HOMETOWN

Tampa, FL
St. Petersburg, FL
Tampa, FL
Richwood, OH
Palmetto, FL
Tampa, FL

2008 SIGNEES

George Baker	CB	5-11	168
David Bedford	DE	6-5	240
Maikon Bonani	K	5-9	170
Justin Brockhuas-Kann	P	6-3	235
Daniel Bryant	WR	6-2	185
B.J. Daniels	QB	6-1	195
Donnel Ingram	DL	6-2	255
Danous Estenor	OL/DL	6-3	305
Josh Garvin	OL	6-4	276
Cory Grissom	DT	6-2	275
Jeff Hawkins	TE	6-4	232
Jatavious Jackson	DL/OL	6-4	280
Michael Lanaris	LB	6-0	232
Evan Landi	QB/DB	6-3	193
John Lejiste	DB	6-0	176
Craig Marshall	DE	6-5	260
Demetris Murray	RB	5-10	207
Mark Popek	OL	6-7	310
Armando Sanchez	LB	5-11	215
Andreas Shields	TE	6-6	200
Quavon Taylor	LB	6-0	190
Kion Wilson	LB	6-2	235
Theo Wilson	CB	6-0	200

The Bulls looked to the future with this recruiting class and may have signed Matt Grothe's ultimate successor with B.J. Daniels, a dual-threat quarterback who will be Leavitt's first recruit permitted to also play basketball. A pair of players from Pearl River (Miss.) Community College — line-backer Kion Wilson (who enrolled in January) and cornerback/receiver Theo Wilson (no relation) — should see plenty of action. The Bulls also might get some immediate help from junior college defensive end David Bedford, an undersized pass-rusher.

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE (8)

WR	2	Carlton Mitchell (So.)	5	A.J. Love (So.)
WR	89	Taurus Johnson (Sr.)	87	Jessie Hester Jr. (Jr.)
WR	11	Marcus Edwards (Sr.)	81	Dontavia Bogan (So.)
LT	78	Marc Dile (Sr.)	72	Joe Herzhauser (So.)
LG	65	Ryan Schmidt (Sr.)	71	Matt Huners (Sr.)
C	77	Jake Griffin (Sr.)	66	Kevin McCaskill (Fr.)
RG	61	Zach Hermann (So.)	55	Jeremiah Warren (Fr.)
RT	64	Jacob Sims (So.)	79	Chaz Hine (Fr.)
TE	9	Cedric Hill (Sr.)	82	Ben Busbee (Jr.)
QB	8	Matt Grothe (Jr.)	15	Grant Gregory (Sr.)
RB	26	Mike Ford (So.)	30	Benjamin Williams (Sr.)

DEFENSE (7)

DE	90	Jarriett Buie (Sr.)	93	Matt Aycox (Jr.)
NT	97	Terrell McClain (So.)	62	Sampson Genus (So.)
DT	98	Aaron Harris (Jr.)	51	Keith McCaskill (Fr.)
DE	95	George Selvie (Jr.)		David Bedford (So.)
SLB	49	Chris Robinson (Jr.)	42	Kion Wilson (Jr.)
MLB	27	Tyrone McKenzie (Sr.)	57	Alonzo McQueen (So.)
WLB	53	Brouce Mompremier (Sr.)	43	Sabbath Joseph (So.)
CB	6	Tyler Roberts (Sr.)		George Baker (Fr.)
CB	3	Jerome Murphy (Jr.)	16	Quenton Washington (Fr.)
SS	32	Carlton Williams (Sr.)	7	Louis Gachette (Sr.)
FS	5	Nate Allen (Jr.)	17	Danny Verpaele (Sr.)

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	25	Delbert Alvarado (Jr.)	KR	3	Jerome Murphy (Jr.)
P	25	Delbert Alvarado (Jr.)	PR	11	Marcus Edwards (Sr.)

RECORD: 9-4 (4-3 BIG EAST)

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	SCORE
S. 1	Elon	W	28-13
S. 8	at Auburn	W	(ot) 26-23
S. 22	North Carolina	W	37-10
S. 28	West Virginia	W	21-13
O. 6	at Florida Atlantic	W	35-23
O. 13	UCF	W	64-12
O. 18	at Rutgers	L	30-27
O. 27	at Connecticut	L	22-15
N. 3	Cincinnati	L	38-33
N. 10	at Syracuse	W	41-10
N. 17	Louisville	W	55-17
N. 24	at Pittsburgh	W	48-37
D. 31	#Oregon	L	56-21
	#Sun Bowl		

2007 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Grothe	392	232	2,670	14	14
Grant Gregory	30	17	280	4	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Matt Grothe	198	872	4.4	10	
Mike Ford	138	645	4.7	12	
Benjamin Williams	105	425	4.0	6	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Carlton Mitchell	37	537	14.5	4	
Jessie Hester	35	418	11.9	4	
Taurus Johnson	34	407	12.0	4	

From September to the beginning of December, college football fans spend Saturdays cheering on their favorite team, arguing among friends about which teams should play for the national championship and who they should start in their college fantasy lineup. Wait — college fantasy lineup?

With the amount of passion college football inspires, imagine owning Colt Brennan in a fantasy league over the last three seasons. Or how about the bragging rights associated with drafting last year's breakout player, Texas Tech receiver Michael Crabtree?

As Athlon Sports enters its 41st year of publication, we are excited to enter the world of college fantasy football, and we want to be your destination for college fantasy coverage. Players like Florida quarterback Tim Tebow and Ohio State running back Chris Wells are known, but we can help you learn the value of New Mexico's Rodney Ferguson or Rice receiver Jarett Dillard.

If you are involved with NFL fantasy contests, playing college fantasy football won't require many adjustments. The scoring and lineup requirements can be determined by the members of the league, but using NFL fantasy scoring standards will work for college football.

The biggest difference between the two? The scope of the player pool. College fantasy leagues can include all 119 FBS teams (and maybe even Western Kentucky in some leagues). With so many teams, there are several fantasy surprises throughout the year, many of whom are impact freshmen.

If leagues involving all 119 teams seem too intimidating, consider a BCS-only setup. This system allows the average college football fan to compete with players he or she might be more familiar with. Also, leagues can be tailored to include a group of conferences — such as an Eastern fantasy league, which includes the ACC, Big East and Independents.

For fantasy players looking for a challenge, consider establishing a keeper league. Think Terrelle Pryor is going to be a fantasy stud in 2009? If so, a keeper league setup would allow each owner to keep one freshman throughout the duration of his college career.

In addition to the launch of the AthlonSports.com college fantasy football section, we have partnered with U-Sports.com — the leader in college fantasy sport contests.

U-Sports.com allows for many different leagues, scoring and player pool options for players looking to get started. During the season, fantasy players in U-Sports have access to live scoring and the ability to banter with league members on a private message board.

With college football just around the corner, let AthlonSports.com be your guide through the fantasy world. Throughout

the preseason, we will continue to update our rankings, provide the latest news and notes, as well as feature pieces to help you win your league. During the season, AthlonSports.com will provide weekly rankings, player updates and informative weekly pieces to keep your team on top for the 2008 season.

Top 100 Overall For all league formats

1. Graham Harrell, QB, Texas Tech
2. Tim Tebow, QB, Florida
3. Michael Crabtree, WR, Texas Tech
4. Dan LeFevour, QB, C. Michigan
5. Chase Daniel, QB, Missouri
6. Chris Wells, RB, Ohio State
7. Ian Johnson, RB, Boise State
8. Pat White, QB, West Virginia
9. Chris Williams, WR, N.M. State
10. Jeremy Maclin, WR, Missouri
11. Damion Fletcher, RB, Southern Miss
12. Rodney Ferguson, RB, New Mexico
13. Knowshon Moreno, RB, Georgia
14. Percy Harvin, WR, Florida
15. Harvey Unga, RB, BYU
16. Eugene Jarvis, RB, Kent State
17. Marlon Lucky, RB, Nebraska
18. Jarett Dillard, WR, Rice
19. LeSean McCoy, RB, Pitt
20. DeMarco Murray, RB, Oklahoma
21. Arian Foster, RB, Tennessee
22. Javon Ringer, RB, Michigan State
23. P.J. Hill, RB, Wisconsin
24. Dante Love, WR, Ball State
25. Noel Devine, RB, West Virginia
26. Nate Davis, QB, Ball State
27. Chase Holbrook, QB, N.M. State
28. Michael Thomas, WR, Arizona
29. Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma
30. Tyrell Sutton, RB, Northwestern
31. Casey Fitzgerald, WR, North Texas
32. Jonathan Dwyer, RB, Georgia Tech
33. Aaron Kelly, WR, Clemson
34. Bryan Anderson, WR, C. Michigan
35. Luke Lippincott, RB, Nevada
36. Curtis Painter, QB, Purdue
37. Justin Anderson, RB, No. Illinois
38. Zac Robinson, QB, Oklahoma State
39. Eric Morris, WR, Texas Tech
40. Darrell Mack, RB, Utah
41. Anthony Dixon, RB, Miss. State
42. Todd Reesing, QB, Kansas
43. Ryan Mathews, RB, Fresno State
44. Jeff Moturi, WR, UTEP
45. Rusty Smith, QB, Florida Atlantic
46. Josh Adams, RB, Wake Forest
47. C.J. Spiller, RB, Clemson
48. Juaquin Iglesias, WR, Oklahoma
49. Max Hall, QB, BYU
50. Kellen Lewis, QB, Indiana
51. Brandon Gibson, WR, Wash. State
52. Eric Decker, WR, Minnesota
53. Brian Robiskie, WR, Ohio State
54. James Starks, RB, Buffalo
55. James Davis, RB, Clemson
56. Darius Hill, TE, Ball State
57. Chase Coffman, TE, Missouri
58. Marcus Barnett, WR, Cincinnati
59. Jahvid Best, RB, Cal
60. Jake Sharp, RB, Kansas
61. Travis Beckum, TE, Wisconsin
62. Emmanuel Sanders, WR, SMU
63. Trae Johnson, WR, Tulsa
64. Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois
65. Kenny Britt, WR, Rutgers
66. Greg Orton, WR, Purdue
67. Tiquan Underwood, WR, Rutgers
68. Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado
69. Vondrell McGee, RB, Texas
70. Evan Royster, RB, Penn State
71. James Casey, TE, Rice
72. Brennan Marion, WR, Tulsa
73. Austin Collier, WR, BYU
74. Dez Bryant, WR, Oklahoma State
75. Jermaine Gresham, TE, Oklahoma
76. Chase Clement, QB, Rice
77. Jake Locker, QB, Washington
78. Dezmon Briscoe, WR, Kansas
79. Jorvorskie Lane, RB, Texas A&M
80. Mike Ford, RB, South Florida
81. Willie Tuitama, QB, Arizona
82. Antonio Brown, WR, C. Michigan
83. Jeremiah Johnson, RB, Oregon
84. Aaron Brown, RB, TCU
85. Keegan Herring, RB, Arizona State
86. Jeremy Childs, WR, Boise State
87. Cortez Gent, WR, FAU
88. Rob Gronkowski, TE, Arizona
89. Tyrell Fenroy, RB, UL Lafayette
90. Kevin Jurovich, WR, San Jose St.
91. Joe McKnight, RB, USC
92. Mike Goodson, RB, Texas A&M
93. Dominick Goodman, WR, Cincinnati
94. Dennis Pitta, TE, BYU
95. Aaron Crawford, RB, Texas Tech
96. Kenny McKinley, WR, South Carolina
97. Kory Sheets, RB, Purdue
98. Cornelius Ingram, TE, Florida
99. Edward Britton, WR, Texas Tech
100. Matt Grothe, QB, South Florida

Visit athlonsports.com for updated rankings

Quarterbacks

1. Graham Harrell, Texas Tech
2. Tim Tebow, Florida
3. Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan
4. Chase Daniel, Missouri
5. Pat White, West Virginia
6. Nate Davis, Ball State
7. Chase Holbrook, N.M. State
8. Sam Bradford, Oklahoma
9. Curtis Painter, Purdue
10. Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State
11. Todd Reesing, Kansas
12. Rusty Smith, Florida Atlantic
13. Max Hall, BYU
14. Kellen Lewis, Indiana
15. Chase Clement, Rice
16. Jake Locker, Washington
17. Willie Tuitama, Arizona
18. Matt Grothe, South Florida
19. Cullen Harper, Clemson
20. Justin Willis, SMU
21. Tyler Graunke, Hawaii
22. Mark Sanchez, USC
23. Tyler Sheehan, Bowling Green
24. Colin Kaepernick, Nevada
25. Colt McCoy, Texas
26. Adam Weber, Minnesota
27. Mike Teel, Rutgers
28. Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP
29. Joe Ganz, Nebraska
30. Rudy Carpenter, Arizona State
31. Juice Williams, Illinois
32. C.J. Bachér, Northwestern
33. David Johnson, Tulsa
34. Hunter Cantwell, Louisville
35. Stephen McGee, Texas A&M
36. Matthew Stafford, Georgia
37. Todd Boeckman, Ohio State
38. Cody Hawkins, Colorado
39. Thaddeus Lewis, Duke
40. Brian Johnson, Utah

Running Backs

1. Chris Wells, Ohio State
2. Ian Johnson, Boise State
3. Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss
4. Rodney Ferguson, New Mexico
5. Knowshon Moreno, Georgia
6. Harvey Unga, BYU
7. Eugene Jarvis, Kent State
8. Marlon Lucky, Nebraska
9. LeSean McCoy, Pitt
10. DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma
11. Arian Foster, Tennessee
12. Javon Ringer, Michigan State
13. P.J. Hill, Wisconsin
14. Noel Devine, West Virginia
15. Tyrell Sutton, Northwestern
16. Jonathan Dwyer, Georgia Tech
17. Luke Lippincott, Nevada
18. Justin Anderson, Northern Illinois
19. Darrell Mack, Utah
20. Anthony Dixon, Mississippi State
21. Ryan Mathews, Fresno State
22. Josh Adams, Wake Forest
23. C.J. Spiller, Clemson
24. James Starks, Buffalo
25. James Davis, Clemson
26. Jahvid Best, Cal
27. Jake Sharp, Kansas
28. Darrell Scott, Colorado
29. Vondrell McGee, Texas
30. Evan Royster, Penn State
31. Jorvorskie Lane, Texas A&M
32. Mike Ford, South Florida
33. Jeremiah Johnson, Oregon
34. Aaron Brown, TCU
35. Keegan Herring, Arizona State
36. Tyrell Fenroy, UL Lafayette
37. Joe McKnight, USC
38. Mike Goodson, Texas A&M
39. Aaron Crawford, Texas Tech
40. Kory Sheets, Purdue
41. Deonte Jackson, Idaho
42. Patrick Jackson, Louisiana Tech
43. Derrick Locke, Kentucky
44. Michael Smith, Arkansas
45. Tarrion Adams, Tulsa
46. Kordell Young, Rutgers
47. Brandon West, Western Michigan
48. Anthony Turner, Bowling Green
49. Justin Hoskins, Central Michigan
50. Brandon Minor, Michigan

Wide Receivers

1. Michael Crabtree, Texas Tech
2. Chris Williams, New Mexico State
3. Jeremy Maclin, Missouri
4. Percy Harvin, Florida
5. Jarrett Dillard, Rice
6. Dante Love, Ball State
7. Michael Thomas, Arizona
8. Casey Fitzgerald, North Texas
9. Aaron Kelly, Clemson
10. Bryan Anderson, Central Michigan
11. Eric Morris, Texas Tech
12. Jeff Moturi, UTEP
13. Juaquin Iglesias, Oklahoma
14. Brandon Gibson, Washington State
15. Eric Decker, Minnesota
16. Brian Robiskie, Ohio State
17. Marcus Barnett, Cincinnati
18. Emmanuel Sanders, SMU
19. Trae Johnson, Tulsa
20. Arrelious Benn, Illinois
21. Kenny Britt, Rutgers
22. Greg Orton, Purdue
23. Tiquan Underwood, Rutgers
24. Brennan Marion, Tulsa
25. Austin Collie, BYU
26. Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State
27. Dezmon Briscoe, Kansas
28. Antonio Brown, Central Michigan
29. Jeremy Childs, Boise State
30. Cortez Gent, FAU
31. Kevin Jurovich, San Jose State
32. Dominick Goodman, Cincinnati
33. Kenny McKinley, South Carolina
34. Edward Britton, Texas Tech
35. Marko Mitchell, Nevada
36. Freddie Barnes, Bowling Green
37. Malcolm Lane, Hawaii
38. A.J. Harris, New Mexico State
39. Greg Mathews, Michigan
40. Julio Jones, Alabama
41. DeAndre Brown, Southern Miss
42. Dexter Fields, Kansas
43. Jaison Williams, Oregon
44. Jamarko Simmons, W. Michigan
45. Carlos Singleton, Memphis
46. Deon Murphy, Kansas State
47. Eron Riley, Duke
48. Stephen Williams, Toledo
49. Danario Alexander, Missouri
50. Gerald Jones, Tennessee

Tight Ends

1. Darius Hill, Ball State
2. Chase Coffman, Missouri
3. Travis Beckum, Wisconsin
4. James Casey, Rice
5. Jermaine Gresham, Oklahoma
6. Rob Gronkowski, Arizona
7. Dennis Pitta, BYU
8. Cornelius Ingram, Florida
9. Cody Slate, Marshall
10. Shawn Nelson, Southern Miss
11. Jason Harmon, FAU
12. Brandon Pettigrew, Oklahoma State
13. Branden Ledbetter, W. Michigan
14. Bear Pascoe, Fresno State
15. Anthony Hill, North Carolina State
16. Kyle Adams, Purdue
17. Kory Sperry, Colorado State
18. Tony Moeaki, Iowa
19. Eddie Williams, Idaho
20. Ed Dickson, Oregon

Kickers

1. Jeff Wolfert, Missouri
2. Pat McAfee, West Virginia
3. Colt David, LSU
4. Thomas Weber, Arizona State
5. Daniel Lincoln, Tennessee
6. Kyle Brotzman, Boise State
7. Chris Summers, Purdue
8. Ryan Pretorius, Ohio State
9. David Buehler, USC
10. Mark Buchholz, Clemson
11. Ryan Bailey, Texas
12. Jason Bondzio, Arizona
13. Dan Kelly, Hawaii
14. Warley Leroy, FAU
15. Austin Starr, Indiana

Defenses

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ohio State | 9. Rutgers |
| 2. USC | 10. Wake Forest |
| 3. Oklahoma | 11. Wisconsin |
| 4. LSU | 12. Boston College |
| 5. Auburn | 13. TCU |
| 6. Cincinnati | 14. South Florida |
| 7. Virginia Tech | 15. Oregon |
| 8. Penn State | |

JUCO

1. Chris Todd, QB, Auburn
2. Carl Moore, WR, Florida
3. Arkelon Hall, QB, Memphis
4. LeGarrette Blount, RB, Oregon
5. Beau Johnson, RB, Oklahoma State
6. Correy Surrency, WR, Florida State
7. Verran Tucker, WR, Cal
8. Aubrey Quarles, WR, Kansas State
9. Tavares Pressley, RB, Florida State
10. Jockes Crawford, RB, Kansas



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COLLEGE FANTASY
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WEEKLY PODCASTS

2008 College Fantasy Football Mock Draft

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1. Mike Crabtree WR Texas Tech	2. Graham Harrell QB Texas Tech	3. Tim Tebow QB Florida	4. Beanie Wells RB Ohio State	5. Pat White QB West Virginia	6. Dan LeFevour QB C. Michigan	7. Ian Johnson RB Boise	8. Chase Daniel QB Missouri	9. Jeremy Maclin WR Missouri	10. Damion Fletcher RB Southern Miss
20. Harvey Unga RB BYU	19. LeSean McCoy RB Pitt	18. Rodney Ferguson RB New Mexico	17. Casey Fitzgerald WR North Texas	16. Noel Devine RB W. Virginia	15. Percy Harvin WR Florida	14. Chris Williams WR N.M. State	13. DeMarco Murray RB Oklahoma	12. Knowshon Moreno RB Georgia	11. Nate Davis QB Ball State
21. Jarett Dillard WR Rice	22. P.J. Hill RB Wisconsin	23. Eugene Jarvis RB Kent State	24. Marlon Lucky RB Nebraska	25. Luke Lippincott RB Nevada	26. Javon Ringer RB Michigan State	27. Emmanuel Sanders WR SMU	28. Justin Anderson RB No. Illinois	29. Chase Holbrook QB N.M. State	30. Michael Thomas WR Arizona
40. Darrell Mack RB Utah	39. Arian Foster RB Tennessee	38. Tyrell Sutton RB Northwestern	37. Dante Love WR Ball State	36. Juaquin Iglesias WR Oklahoma	35. Bryan Anderson WR C. Michigan	34. Jonathan Dwyer RB Georgia Tech	33. Darrell Scott RB Colorado	32. Eric Morris WR Texas Tech	31. Chris Rainey RB Florida
41. Jeff Moturi WR UTEP	42. Aaron Kelly WR Clemson	43. Brandon Gibson WR Washington St.	44. Kellen Lewis QB Indiana	45. Joe McKnight RB USC	46. Ryan Mathews RB Fresno State	47. LeGarrette Blount RB Oregon	48. Dez Bryant WR Oklahoma St.	49. James Davis RB Clemson	50. Mike Ford RB South Florida

For the rest of the mock draft, visit athlonsports.com.

Offense

10 yards rushing = 1 point
10 yards receiving = 1 point
25 yards passing = 1 point
4 points per passing TD
6 points per rushing TD
6 points per receiving TD
0.5 points per reception

Kickers

Less than 30 yards = 3 pts
40-49 yards = 4 pts
50-59 yards = 5 pts
Greater than 60 yards = 6 pts

Team Defenses

0 points allowed - 15 pts
2-6 points allowed - 10 pts
7-13 points allowed - 7 pts
14-20 points allowed - 4 pts
21-27 points allowed - 2 pts
28-34 points allowed - 0 pts
35+ points allowed - (-2) pts

Safeties - 2 pts
Fumbles recovered - 3 pts
Interceptions recovered - 3 pts
Sacks - 1 pt
Defensive/Special Teams touchdowns - 6 pts

Sleepers

David Ausberry, WR, USC

This could be the speedster Ronald Johnson. Or Patrick Turner. Or Vidal Hazelton. Ausberry is the most talented and physically gifted of the group.

Mark Dell, WR, Michigan State

Devin Thomas had a breakout season in '07 and decided to bolt to the NFL a year early. Quarterback Brian Hoyer will now look to Dell to pick-up the slack in '08.

Greg Little, RB, North Carolina

This converted wide receiver earned the starting tailback spot after a 2007 finale of 154 yards and two scores against Duke. His numbers should be consistently strong as the Tar Heels' featured back.

Derrick Locke, RB, Kentucky

A sophomore who came to Lexington on a track scholarship, Locke was Rafael Little's back-up last year. He played very well against the likes of LSU, Tennessee and Florida.

Trent Guy, WR, Louisville

Gary Barnidge, Harry Douglas and Mario Urrutia have all moved on and left a major gap in the receiving corps. Expect Guy to step in and be Hunter Cantwell's main target.

Chris Rainey, RB, Florida

This could have just as well as been USC transfer Emmanuel Moody. Moody will be the inside runner while Rainey is the big-play threat.

Gary Rogers, QB, Washington State

New coach Paul Wulff has already stated that he is going to throw early and often. With the talented Brandon Gibson at his side, expect Rogers, a fifth-year senior but first-time starter, to put up solid numbers.

Michael Smith, RB, Arkansas

With Felix Jones and Darren McFadden moving on to the NFL, Smith becomes the obvious beneficiary of the high-powered Bobby Petrino rushing attack.

Deonte Thompson, WR, Florida

This burner of a wide receiver will be the guy to step in and pick-up where Andre Caldwell left off. The Gators have a ton of weapons, so he comes with a bit of a risk.

Marcus Thigpen, RB, Indiana

With dynamic receiver James Hardy moving onto the NFL, Thigpen becomes the go-to guy for talented quarterback Kellen Lewis.

Freshmen

1. Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado
2. Julio Jones, WR, Alabama
3. DeAndre Brown, WR, Southern Miss
4. Darron Thomas, QB, Oregon
5. De'Anthony Curtis, RB, Arkansas
6. Blake Ayles, TE, USC
7. Michael Floyd, WR, Notre Dame
8. Josh Haden, RB, Boston College
9. Jeff Fuller, WR, Texas A&M
10. Enrique Davis, RB, Ole Miss
11. Tavarres King, WR, Georgia
12. Darryl Stonum, WR, Michigan
13. Dan Buckner, WR, Texas
14. Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State
15. Kavario Middleton, TE, Washington
16. Justin Feagin, ATH, Michigan
17. Mikel LeShoure, RB, Illinois
18. A.J. Green, WR, Georgia
19. Aldarius Johnson, WR, Miami
20. Darius Ashley, RB, Louisville



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CHAMPS
SPORTS
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THE BACK PAGE

Here it is — the season at a glance. We've projected this year's records for all 119 Football Bowl Subdivision teams, although we've hedged our bets again with the "swing game" designation (the third number in each record). Worth noting: The lowest-ranked team without a sure loss is Tulsa at No. 46. The highest-ranked team without a sure win: Oregon State, at No. 61.

THE TOP 25

1. FLORIDA	(9-0-3)
2. OHIO STATE	(9-0-3)
3. OKLAHOMA	(11-0-1)
4. USC	(9-0-3)
5. GEORGIA	(7-0-5)
6. MISSOURI	(9-0-3)
7. WEST VIRGINIA	(10-0-2)
8. AUBURN	(9-0-3)
9. LSU	(9-0-3)
10. CLEMSON	(10-0-2)
11. TEXAS	(7-0-5)
12. WISCONSIN	(9-0-3)
13. KANSAS	(7-1-4)
14. BYU	(10-0-2)
15. ARIZONA STATE	(8-0-4)
16. ILLINOIS	(7-0-5)
17. TENNESSEE	(8-1-3)
18. TEXAS TECH	(9-1-2)
19. OREGON	(10-0-2)
20. SOUTH FLORIDA	(9-1-2)
21. VIRGINIA TECH	(9-0-3)
22. RUTGERS	(9-1-2)
23. PENN STATE	(8-2-2)
24. WAKE FOREST	(9-0-3)
25. FRESNO STATE	(8-2-2)

26. FLORIDA STATE	(5-1-6)	73. VANDERBILT	(2-8-2)
27. PITTSBURGH	(5-2-5)	74. STANFORD	(1-9-2)
28. MICHIGAN	(8-1-3)	75. BALL STATE	(7-1-4)
29. UCLA	(4-3-5)	76. NEW MEXICO	(4-6-2)
30. ALABAMA	(6-5-1)	77. HAWAII	(6-3-4)
31. COLORADO	(4-2-6)	78. MINNESOTA	(2-7-3)
32. OKLAHOMA STATE	(7-4-1)	79. UCF	(4-4-4)
33. UTAH	(9-1-2)	80. DUKE	(1-9-2)
34. SOUTH CAROLINA	(6-5-1)	81. IOWA STATE	(3-8-1)
35. CALIFORNIA	(6-3-3)	82. WESTERN MICHIGAN	(7-3-2)
36. CINCINNATI	(5-4-4)	83. WYOMING	(4-4-4)
37. NORTH CAROLINA	(7-1-4)	84. BAYLOR	(1-9-2)
38. IOWA	(7-3-2)	85. UTEP	(4-5-3)
39. TEXAS A&M	(6-4-2)	86. AIR FORCE	(4-5-3)
40. ARIZONA	(7-2-3)	87. MEMPHIS	(6-4-2)
41. NEBRASKA	(4-6-2)	88. MIAMI (OHIO)	(5-2-5)
42. MARYLAND	(5-2-5)	89. BOWLING GREEN	(4-2-6)
43. MIAMI	(5-3-4)	90. SYRACUSE	(2-10-0)
44. BOSTON COLLEGE	(5-3-4)	91. SMU	(2-8-2)
45. TCU	(9-2-1)	92. BUFFALO	(4-3-5)
46. TULSA	(10-0-2)	93. COLORADO STATE	(2-7-3)
47. BOISE STATE	(9-1-2)	94. KENT STATE	(6-3-3)
48. MISSISSIPPI STATE	(5-3-4)	95. TROY	(7-4-1)
49. MICHIGAN STATE	(3-5-4)	96. LOUISIANA TECH	(3-6-3)
50. WASHINGTON	(2-8-2)	97. NORTHERN ILLINOIS	(2-8-2)
51. CONNECTICUT	(5-4-3)	98. RICE	(3-6-3)
52. HOUSTON	(9-1-2)	99. SAN JOSE STATE	(3-6-3)
53. NORTHWESTERN	(5-4-3)	100. MIDDLE TENNESSEE	(5-5-2)
54. PURDUE	(2-5-5)	101. TEMPLE	(2-8-2)
55. ARKANSAS	(2-6-4)	102. UNLV	(1-10-1)
56. GEORGIA TECH	(3-6-3)	103. TOLEDO	(1-8-3)
57. NC STATE	(2-8-2)	104. SAN DIEGO STATE	(2-7-3)
58. KENTUCKY	(4-5-3)	105. NEW MEXICO STATE	(2-8-2)
59. EAST CAROLINA	(5-2-5)	106. ARKANSAS STATE	(4-6-2)
60. NOTRE DAME	(3-5-4)	107. MARSHALL	(1-10-1)
61. OREGON STATE	(0-9-3)	108. NORTH TEXAS	(2-7-3)
62. CENTRAL MICHIGAN	(8-1-3)	109. UAB	(1-9-2)
63. SOUTHERN MISS	(8-1-3)	110. OHIO	(1-10-1)
64. KANSAS STATE	(4-6-2)	111. TULANE	(0-9-3)
65. INDIANA	(3-5-4)	112. EASTERN MICHIGAN	(1-8-3)
66. LOUISVILLE	(4-3-5)	113. AKRON	(0-7-5)
67. VIRGINIA	(1-8-3)	114. UL MONROE	(1-7-4)
68. NEVADA	(7-4-1)	115. UL LAFAYETTE	(0-10-2)
69. OLE MISS	(3-6-3)	116. ARMY	(0-5-7)
70. FLORIDA ATLANTIC	(9-2-1)	117. UTAH STATE	(0-11-1)
71. WASHINGTON STATE	(1-7-5)	118. IDAHO	(1-10-1)
72. NAVY	(6-3-3)	119. FLORIDA INT'L	(0-10-2)

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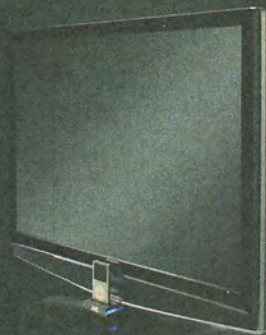




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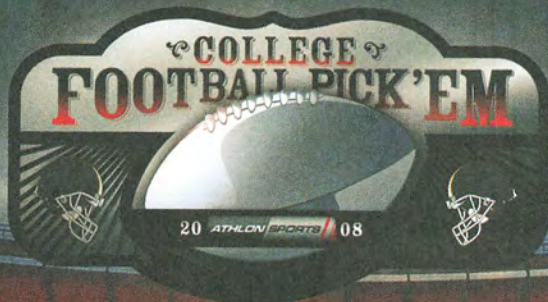


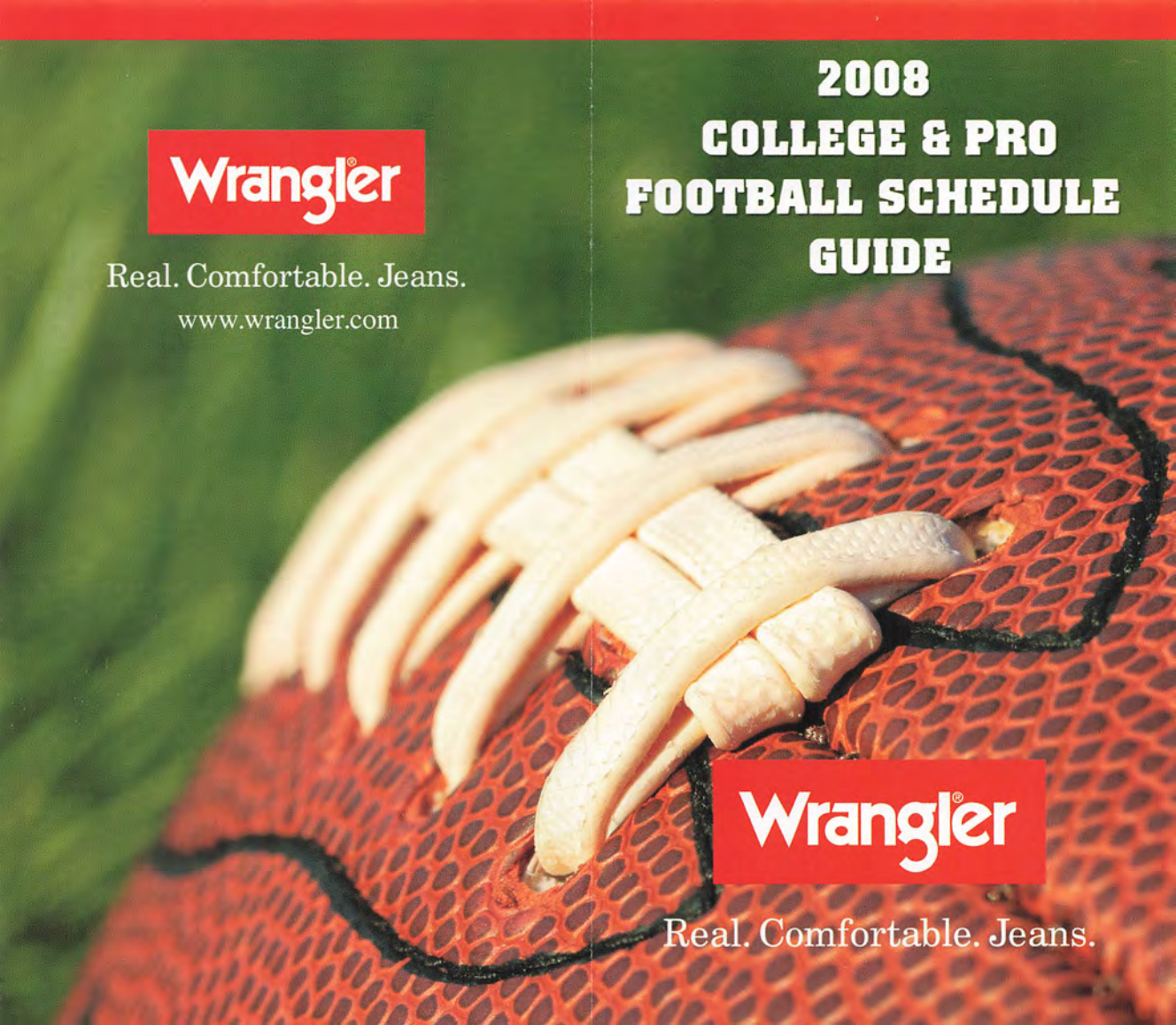
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S. 20 at North Carolina
S. 27 at Nebraska
O. 4 Western Kentucky
O. 18 at Boston College
O. 25 at Florida State
N. 6 Maryland
N. 13 at Miami
N. 22 Duke
N. 29 Virginia
#Charlotte, NC

S. 11 North Carolina
S. 20 at Navy
S. 27 TIA
O. 4 at West Virginia
O. 11 at Cincinnati
O. 18 Connecticut
O. 25 at Pittsburgh
N. 8 Syracuse
N. 13 at South Florida
N. 22 Army
O. 4 Louisville

S. 13 Iowa State
S. 20 at Pittsburgh
S. 27 Northwestern
O. 4 at Michigan State
O. 11 at Indiana
O. 18 Wisconsin
N. 1 at Illinois
N. 8 Penn State
N. 15 Purdue
N. 22 at Minnesota

S. 13 at Syracuse
S. 20 Temple
S. 27 Illinois
O. 4 at Purdue
O. 11 at Wisconsin
O. 18 Michigan
O. 25 at Ohio State
N. 8 at Iowa
N. 15 Indiana
N. 22 Michigan State

S. 13 at South F
S. 20 Sam Hous
O. 4 at Iowa St
O. 11 Colorado
O. 18 at Oklaho
O. 25 Texas Tech
N. 1 Kansas St
N. 8 at Nebras
N. 13 Texas
N. 29 Missouri
N. 29 Kansas C

Arkansas	S. 10	Rice
California	O. 4	at Colton
Oklahoma	O. 11	#Oklahoma
Missouri	O. 18	Missouri
Oklahoma	O. 25	Oklahoma
at Texas	N. 1	at Texas
Baylor	N. 8	Baylor
at Kansas	N. 15	at Kansas
Texas A&M	N. 27	Texas A&M
#Dallas		#Dallas

S. 6	Utah
S. 13	at Fur
S. 20	Bois
S. 27	at Wa
O. 4	at US
O. 11	UCLA
O. 25	at Ariz
N. 1	at Cal
N. 8	Stamf
N. 15	Arizon
N. 29	at Ore

State	S. 27	Ore.
	O. 4	at H
ington State	O. 11	at O
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	N. 1	at S
State	N. 8	Ariz
ia	N. 15	at A
	N. 22	Wisc
State	N. 29	at H
		#Sec

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SEC

ALABAMA (7-6)

Tuscaloosa, AL
A.30 @ Clemson
S.6 Tulane
N.15 Western Kentucky
S.20 @ Arkansas
S.27 @ Georgia
O.4 Kentucky
O.18 @ N.Y. Mississippi State
O.25 @ Tennessee
N.1 Arkansas State
N.8 @ LSU
N.29 Mississippi State
N.29 Auburn
N.29 Atlanta, GA

ARKANSAS (6-5)

Fayetteville, AR
S.20 Western Illinois
S.6 @ Missouri
S.13 @ Texas
S.20 Alabama
O.25 Florida
O.11 @ Auburn
O.18 @ Kentucky
O.25 Ole Miss
N.22 Tulane
N.8 @ South Carolina
N.22 @ Mississippi State
N.29 LSU
N.29 Little Rock, AR

AUBURN (7-4)

A.30 UL Monroe
S.6 Southern Miss
S.13 @ Mississippi State
S.20 LSU
S.27 Tennessee
O.14 @ Vanderbilt
O.11 Arkansas
O.23 @ West Virginia
N.1 @ Ole Miss
N.8 Tennessee-Martin
N.15 Georgia
N.29 @ Alabama

FLORIDA (9-4)

Gainesville, FL
A.30 Hawaii
S.6 Miami
S.20 @ South Carolina
O.27 Ole Miss
O.4 @ Arkansas
O.11 LSU
N.15 @ Miami
N.1 @ Georgia
N.8 @ Vanderbilt
N.15 South Carolina
N.29 @ Florida State
N.29 Blacksville, FL

GEORGIA (11-2)

Atlanta, GA
A.30 Georgia Southern
S.6 Central Michigan
S.13 @ South Carolina
S.20 @ Arizona State
N.15 Alabama
O.11 Tennessee
N.8 Vanderbilt
O.25 @ LSU
N.1 @ Florida
N.8 @ Kentucky
N.15 @ Auburn
N.29 Georgia Tech
N.29 Blacksville, FL

KENTUCKY (8-5)

Lexington, KY
A.30 @ Louisville
S.6 Norfolk State
S.13 Middle Tennessee
S.27 Western Kentucky
O.4 @ Alabama
O.11 South Carolina
O.25 Arkansas
O.23 @ Florida
N.15 @ Mississippi State
N.8 Georgia
N.15 Vanderbilt
N.29 @ Tennessee

MISSISSIPPI STATE (8-5)

Starkville, MS
A.30 @ Louisiana Tech
S.6 @ Louisiana Tech
S.13 Auburn
S.20 @ Georgia Tech
S.27 @ LSU
N.11 Vanderbilt
O.18 @ Tennessee
O.25 Middle Tennessee
N.1 Kentucky
N.15 @ Alabama
O.23 @ West Virginia
N.28 @ Ole Miss
N.8 Tennessee-Martin
N.15 Georgia
N.29 @ Alabama

NOTRE DAME (3-9)

South Bend, IN
A.30 @ South Carolina
S.13 Michigan
S.20 @ Michigan State
S.27 Purdue
O.4 @ Maryland
O.11 @ North Carolina
O.15 @ Washington
N.1 Pittsburgh
N.8 Boston College
N.15 @ Syracuse
N.29 @ USC
N.29 @ Miami

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-4)

Columbia, SC
A.28 NC State
S.4 @ Vanderbilt
S.13 Georgia
S.20 Wakeford
S.27 UAB
O.4 @ Ole Miss
O.11 @ Kentucky
N.18 LSU
N.1 Tennessee
N.8 Arkansas
N.15 @ Florida
N.29 @ Clemson

TENNESSEE (10-4)

Knoxville, TN
S.1 @ UCLA
S.13 UAB
S.20 Florida
S.27 @ Auburn
O.4 @ Northern Illinois
O.11 @ Georgia
N.18 Mississippi State
O.25 Alabama
N.1 @ South Carolina
N.8 Wyoming
N.22 @ Vanderbilt
N.29 Kentucky

VANDERBILT (5-7)

Nashville, TN
A.28 @ Miami (OH)
S.4 South Carolina
S.13 Rice
S.20 @ Ole Miss
O.4 Auburn
O.11 @ Mississippi State
N.8 @ Georgia
O.28 Duke
N.5 Florida
N.15 @ Kentucky
N.22 Tennessee
N.29 @ Wake Forest

ARMY (3-9)

Fort Sill, OK
A.28 Temple
S.5 North Hampshire
S.20 Akron
S.27 @ Texas A&M
O.4 @ Tulane
O.15 Eastern Michigan
O.18 @ Buffalo
S.20 Louisiana Tech
N.1 Air Force
N.22 @ Rice
N.22 @ Rutgers
N.5 Navy
N.29 Philadelphia, PA

NAVY (8-5)

Annapolis, MD
A.30 Towson
S.13 @ Ball State
S.20 @ San Diego
S.27 @ Wake Forest
O.29 SMU
N.1 Temple
N.15 @ Wake Forest
N.23 @ Northern Illinois
N.29 @ Baltimore, MD
N.29 Philadelphia, PA

NOTRE DAME (3-9)

South Bend, IN
A.30 @ South Carolina
S.13 Michigan
S.20 @ Michigan State
S.27 Purdue
O.4 @ Maryland
O.11 @ North Carolina
O.15 @ Washington
N.1 Pittsburgh
N.8 Boston College
N.15 @ Syracuse
N.29 @ USC
N.29 @ Miami

SOUTH CAROLINA (6-4)

Columbia, SC
A.28 NC State
S.4 @ Vanderbilt
S.13 Georgia
S.20 Wakeford
S.27 UAB
O.4 @ Ole Miss
O.11 @ Kentucky
N.18 LSU
N.1 Tennessee
N.8 Arkansas
N.15 @ Florida
N.29 @ Clemson

TENNESSEE (10-4)

Knoxville, TN
S.1 @ UCLA
S.13 UAB
S.20 Florida
S.27 @ Auburn
O.4 @ Northern Illinois
O.11 @ Georgia
N.18 Mississippi State
O.25 Alabama
N.1 @ South Carolina
N.8 Wyoming
N.22 @ Vanderbilt
N.29 Kentucky

Wrangler

2008 PRO FOOTBALL TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULE

Week 1

Thursday, Sept. 4
Washington @ N.Y. Giants
Sunday, Sept. 7
Cincinnati @ Baltimore
Detroit @ Atlanta
Houston @ Pittsburgh
Jacksonville @ Tennessee
Kansas City @ New England
N.Y. Jets @ Miami
Seattle @ Buffalo
St. Louis @ Philadelphia
Tampa Bay @ New Orleans
Arizona @ San Francisco
Carolina @ San Diego
Dallas @ Indianapolis
Monday, Sept. 8
Minnesota @ Green Bay
Denver @ Oakland

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 14
Buffalo @ Jacksonville
Chicago @ Atlanta
Green Bay @ Detroit
Indianapolis @ Minnesota
New Orleans @ Washington
N.Y. Giants @ St. Louis
Oakland @ Kansas City
Tennessee @ Cincinnati
Atlanta @ Tampa Bay
San Francisco @ Seattle
Baltimore @ Houston
Miami @ Arizona
New England @ N.Y. Jets
Pittsburgh @ Cleveland
Monday, Sept. 15
Philadelphia @ Dallas

Week 3

Sunday, Sept. 21
Arizona @ Washington
Carolina @ Minnesota
Cincinnati @ N.Y. Giants
Houston @ Tennessee
Kansas City @ Atlanta
Miami @ New England
Oakland @ Buffalo
Tampa Bay @ Chicago
Detroit @ San Francisco
New Orleans @ Denver
St. Louis @ Seattle
Cleveland @ Baltimore
Jacksonville @ Indianapolis
Philadelphia @ Philadelphia
Dallas @ Green Bay
Monday, Sept. 22
N.Y. Jets @ San Diego

Week 4

Sunday, Sept. 28
Arizona @ N.Y. Jets
Atlanta @ Carolina
Cleveland @ Cincinnati
Denver @ Kansas City
Green Bay @ Tampa Bay
Houston @ Jacksonville
Minnesota @ Tennessee
San Francisco @ New Orleans
Buffalo @ St. Louis
San Diego @ Oakland
Washington @ Dallas
Philadelphia @ Chicago
Monday, Sept. 29
Baltimore @ Pittsburgh
Open date: Detroit, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, N.Y. Giants, Seattle

Week 5

Sunday, Oct. 5
Atlanta @ Green Bay
Chicago @ Detroit
Indianapolis @ Houston
Kansas City @ Carolina
San Diego @ Miami
Seattle @ N.Y. Giants
Tennessee @ Baltimore
Washington @ Philadelphia
Tampa Bay @ Denver
Buffalo @ Arizona
Dallas @ New England
N.Y. Giants @ Indianapolis
Monday, Oct. 6
Minnesota @ New Orleans
Open date: Cleveland, N.Y. Jets, Oakland, St. Louis, San Francisco

Week 6

Sunday, Oct. 12
Baltimore @ Indianapolis
Carolina @ Tampa Bay
Chicago @ Atlanta
Cincinnati @ N.Y. Jets
Detroit @ Minnesota
Miami @ Houston
Oakland @ New Orleans
St. Louis @ Washington
Jacksonville @ Denver
Dallas @ Arizona
Tennessee @ Baltimore
Philadelphia @ San Francisco
New England @ San Diego
Monday, Oct. 13
N.Y. Giants @ Cleveland
Open date: Buffalo, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Tennessee

Week 7

Sunday, Oct. 19
Baltimore @ Miami
Dallas @ St. Louis
Minnesota @ Chicago
New Orleans @ Carolina
Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
San Diego @ Buffalo
San Francisco @ N.Y. Giants
Tennessee @ Kansas City
Detroit @ Houston
Cleveland @ Washington
Indianapolis @ Green Bay
N.Y. Jets @ Oakland
Seattle @ Tampa Bay
Monday, Oct. 20
Denver @ San Diego
Open date: Arizona, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Philadelphia

Week 8

Sunday, Oct. 26
Arizona @ Carolina
Atlanta @ Philadelphia
Buffalo @ Miami
Kansas City @ N.Y. Jets
Oakland @ Baltimore
"San Diego vs. New Orleans"
St. Louis @ New England
Tampa Bay @ Dallas
Washington @ Detroit
Cleveland @ Jacksonville
N.Y. Giants @ Pittsburgh
Seattle @ San Francisco
"London, England"
Monday, Oct. 27
Indianapolis @ Tennessee
Open date: Chicago, Cincinnati, Denver, Green Bay, Houston, Minnesota

Week 9

Sunday,

Wrangler

☆☆☆☆☆
FIVE STAR
Premium Quality
DENIM



BUILT TOUGH

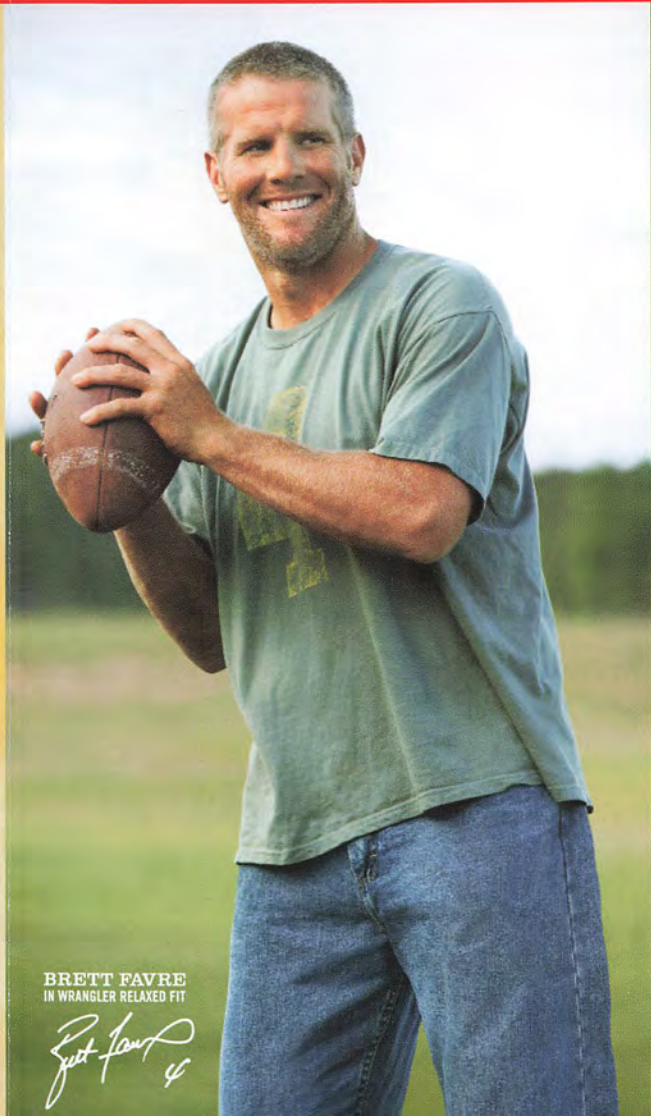
WITH 14 OZ. HEAVYWEIGHT DENIM

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WITH STONEWASHED, RELAXED FIT

GUARANTEED

100% TOTAL SATISFACTION



BRETT FAVRE
IN WRANGLER RELAXED FIT

Brett Favre

A green gecko with large red eyes is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards a football on the right. The gecko has a small orange spot on its forehead and a pinkish-red mouth. The football is orange with white stripes and laces, and a logo that says "WATERPROOF COVER" and "OFFICIAL SIZE". The background is a green grassy field with white yard lines.

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